



MARVEL

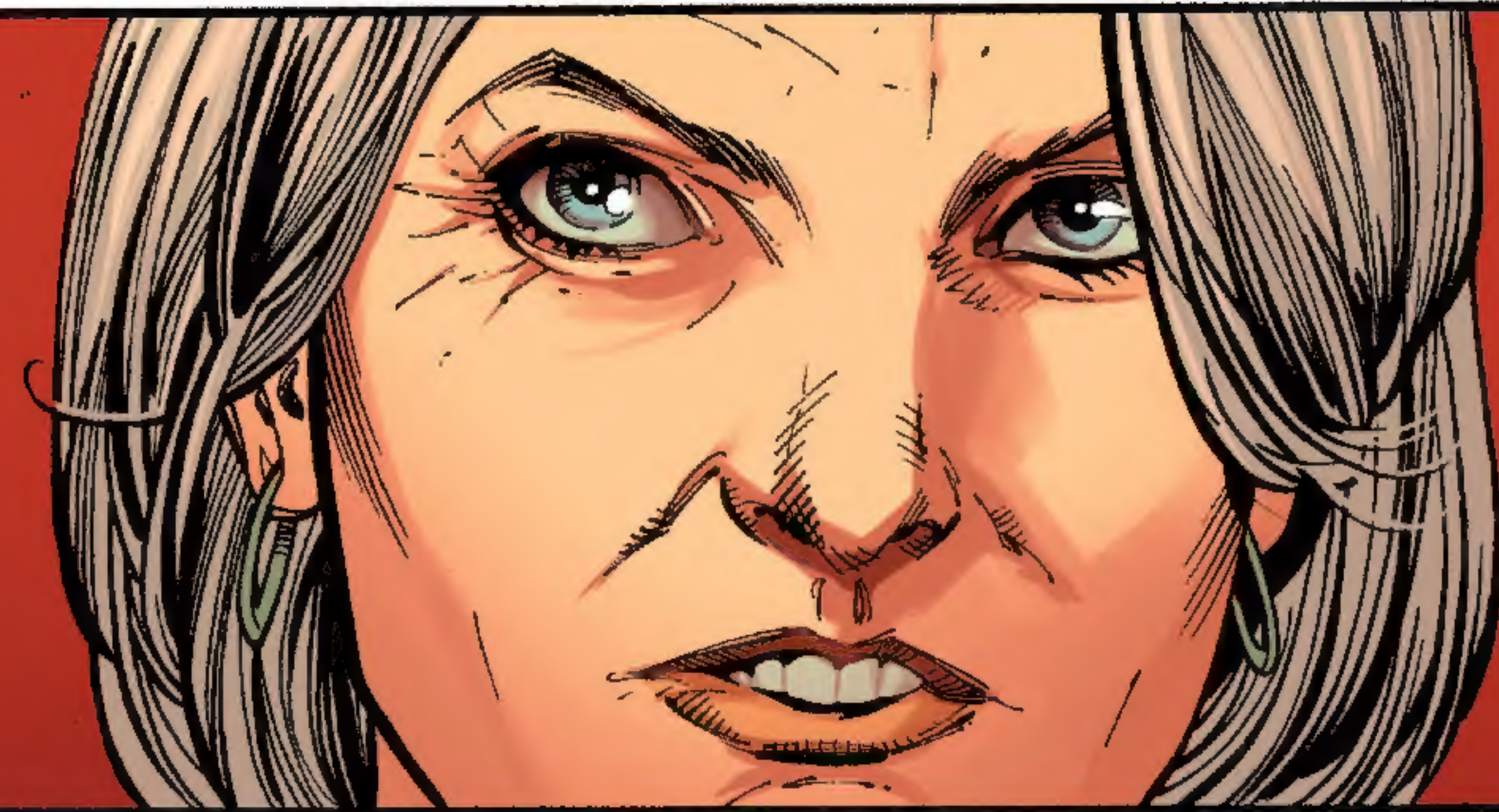
X-MENTM

GOLD

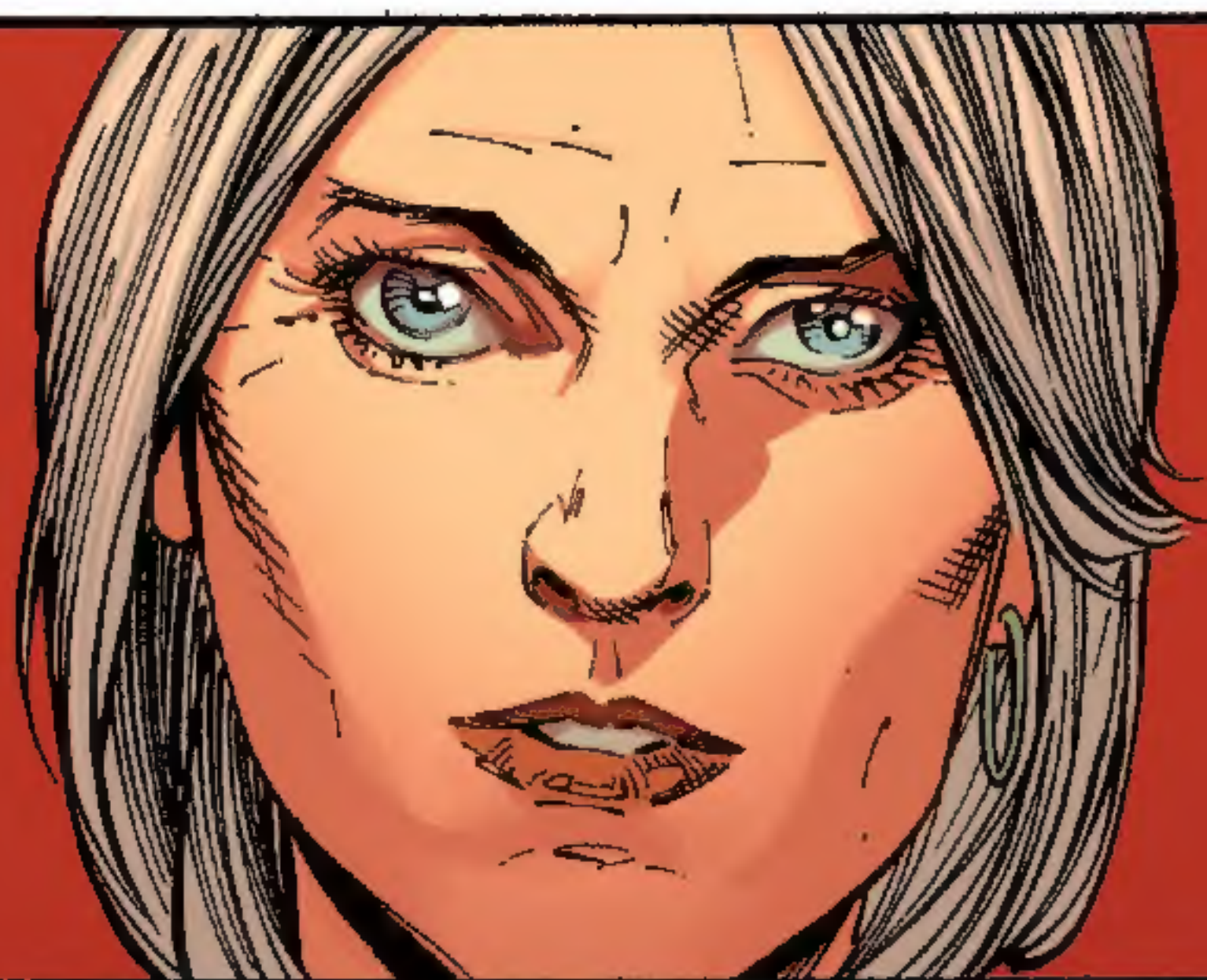
SYAF
LEISTEN
2016
Laura

001

GUGGENHEIM
SYAF
LEISTEN
MARTIN



WHY DOES
THE WORLD
HATE AND FEAR
MUTANTS?



I'VE OFTEN
HAD OCCASION
TO *WONDER*, IN A WORLD
OF INHUMANS,
ASGARDIANS, SPIDER-MEN
(AND WOMEN) AND ALL
MANNER OF *ENHANCED*
INDIVIDUALS...

WHAT
PARTICULAR
THREAT DO
MUTANTS
POSE?

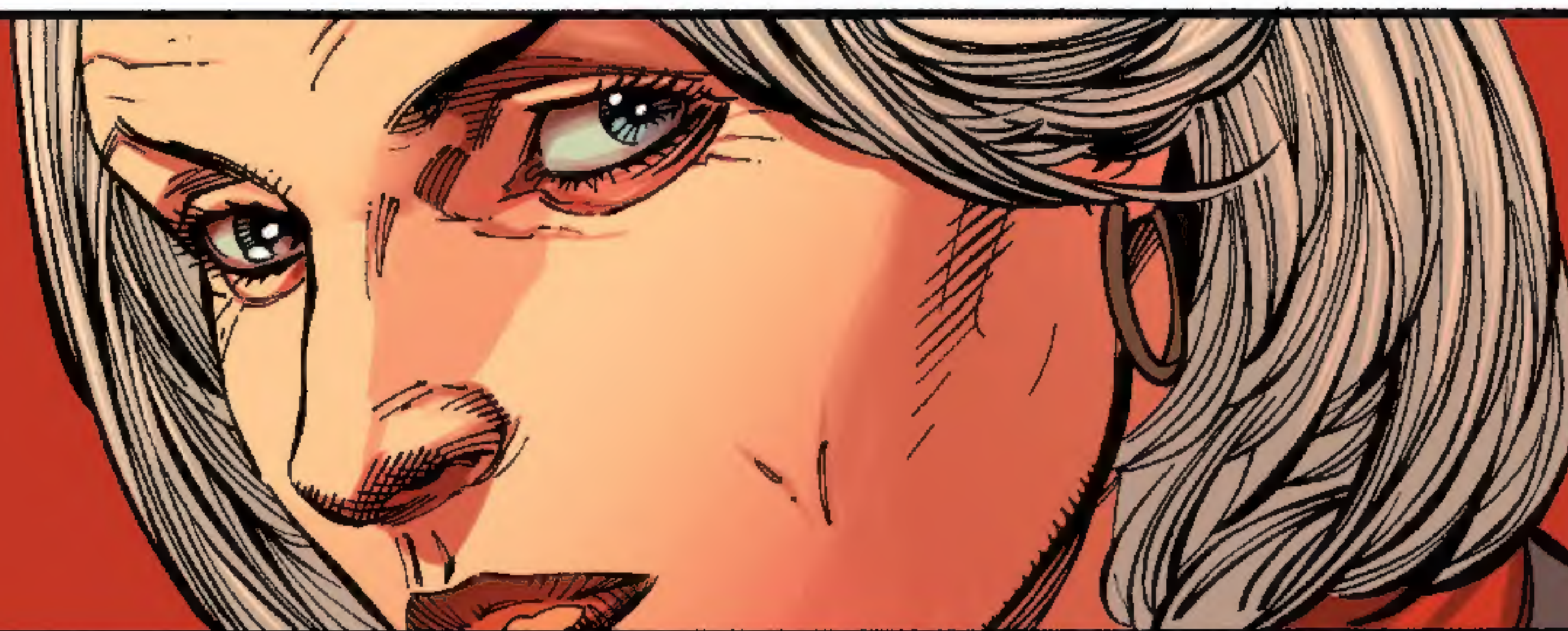
THE
ANSWER IS THE
X-GENOME.

MUTANTS
ARE THE ONLY
PHYLUM THAT
SPONTANEOUSLY
ENHANCES.

THAT
X-GENOME IS
A TICKING
EVOLUTIONARY
TIME BOMB.

THE
FACT
CHANNEL

LYDIA NANCE, HERITAGE INITIATIVE DIRECTOR



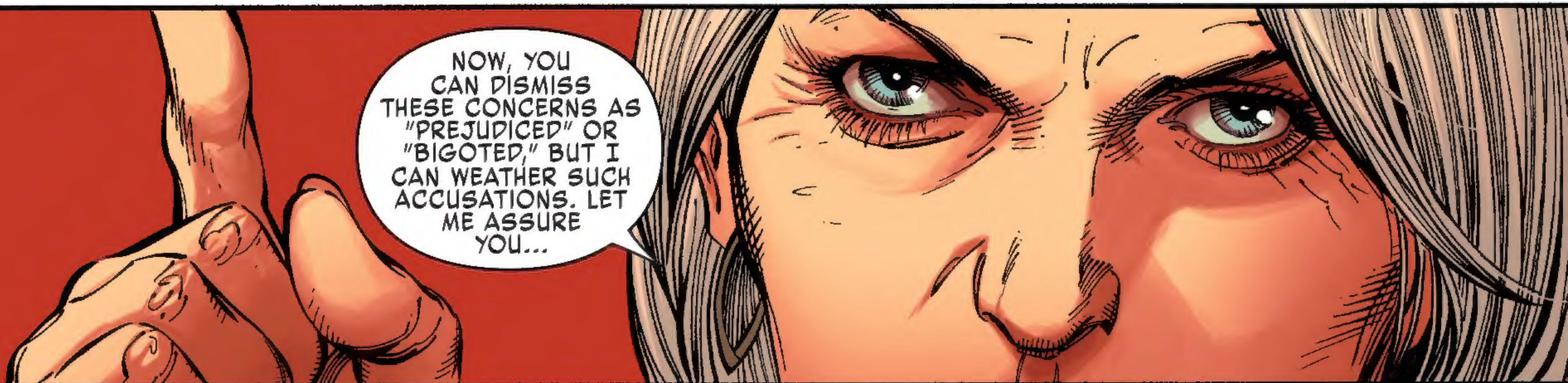
IT SOUNDS
A LITTLE LIKE
YOU'RE SPLITTING
HAIRS, MS. NANCE,
TRYING TO *JUSTIFY*
WHAT SOME WOULD
CHARACTERIZE
AS *RACIAL*
PREJUDICE.



RACIAL
PREJUDICE IS
BASED ON *AESTHETIC*
DISTINCTIONS--SKIN
COLOR OR EPICANTHIC
FOLDS, FOR
EXAMPLE.

WHAT I'M
TALKING ABOUT IS
A *CONDITION* THAT
CREATES HMDs--HUMAN
BEINGS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION.

NOW, YOU
CAN DISMISS
THESE CONCERNS AS
"PREJUDICED" OR
"BIGOTED," BUT I
CAN WEATHER SUCH
ACCUSATIONS. LET
ME ASSURE
YOU...



"...MY ORGANIZATION
IS HELL-BENT ON
PROTECTING THE WORLD
AT WHATEVER COST."

TO
ME, MY
X-MEN...

ALWAYS
WANTED
TO SAY THAT,
HAVEN'T
YOU?

LIKE
YOU HAVE
NO IDEA.



X-MEN

GOLD

PREVIOUSLY IN **X-MEN...**

GENETICALLY GIFTED WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE NEXT STAGE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION. WHILE THE WORLD HATES AND FEARS THEM, KITTY PRYDE HAS REFORMED THE TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES KNOWN AS THE X-MEN TO USE THEIR POWERS FOR GOOD AND SPREAD A POSITIVE IMAGE OF MUTANTKIND.

BACK TO THE BASICS

PART 1

WRITER MARC GUGGENHEIM

PENCILER ARDIAN SYAF

INKER JAY LEISTEN

COLORIST FRANK MARTIN

LETTERER VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ARTISTS ARDIAN SYAF, JAY LEISTEN
& LAURA MARTIN

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS SKOTTIE YOUNG; KEN LASHLEY & NOLAN WOODARD; BOB McLEOD; BILLY MARTIN & EDGAR DELGADO; RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA; LEONARD KIRK & MICHAEL GARLAND; ANDRÉ LeROY DAVIS; MIKE McKONE & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR; DAVID MARQUEZ & MARTE GRACIA; J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & PETER STEIGERWALD; IAN McGINTY

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
JAY BOWEN &
ANTHONY GAMBINO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS
ROBINSON

EDITOR
DANIEL
KETCHUM

X-MEN GROUP EDITOR
MARK
PANICCIA

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

PRESIDENT
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



KITTY PRYDE



STORM



NIGHTCRAWLER



COLOSSUS

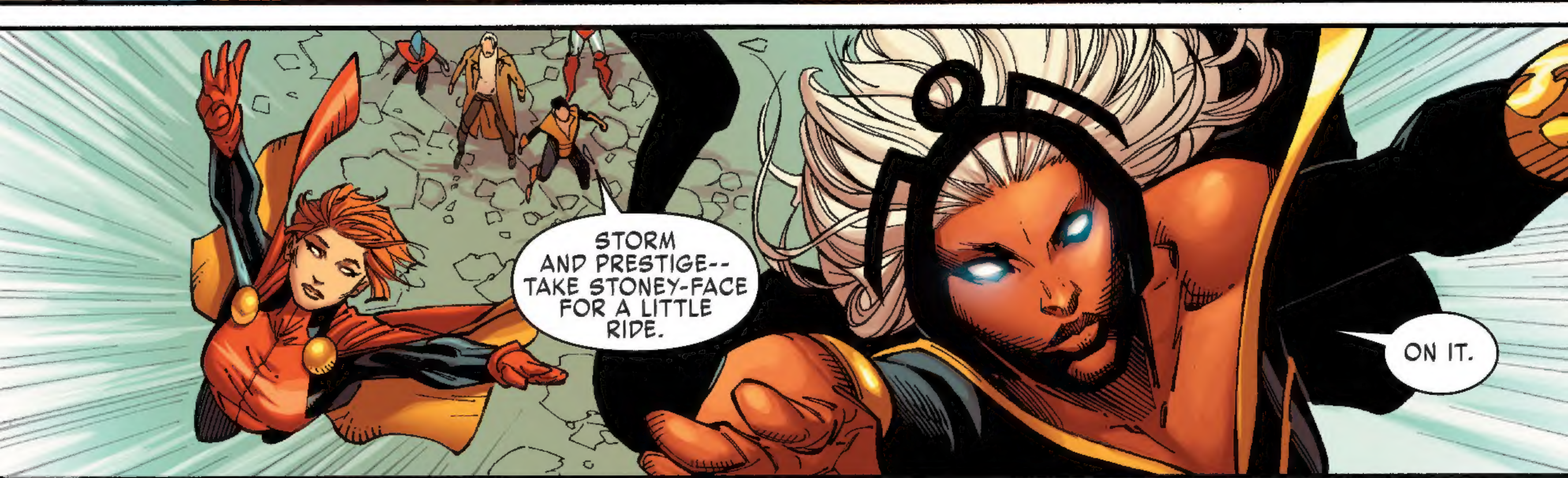
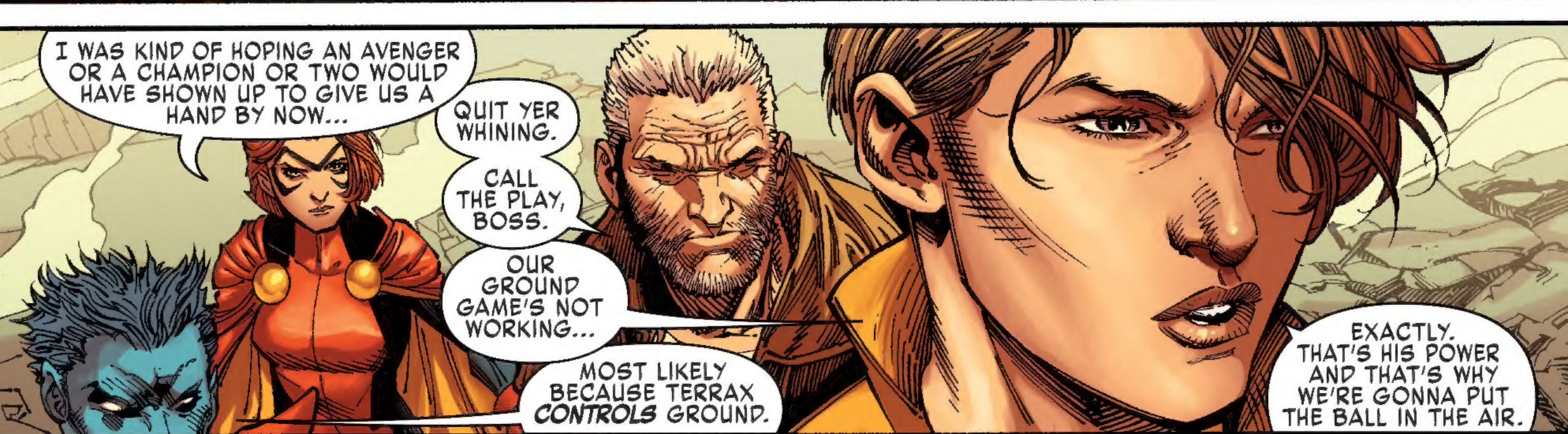


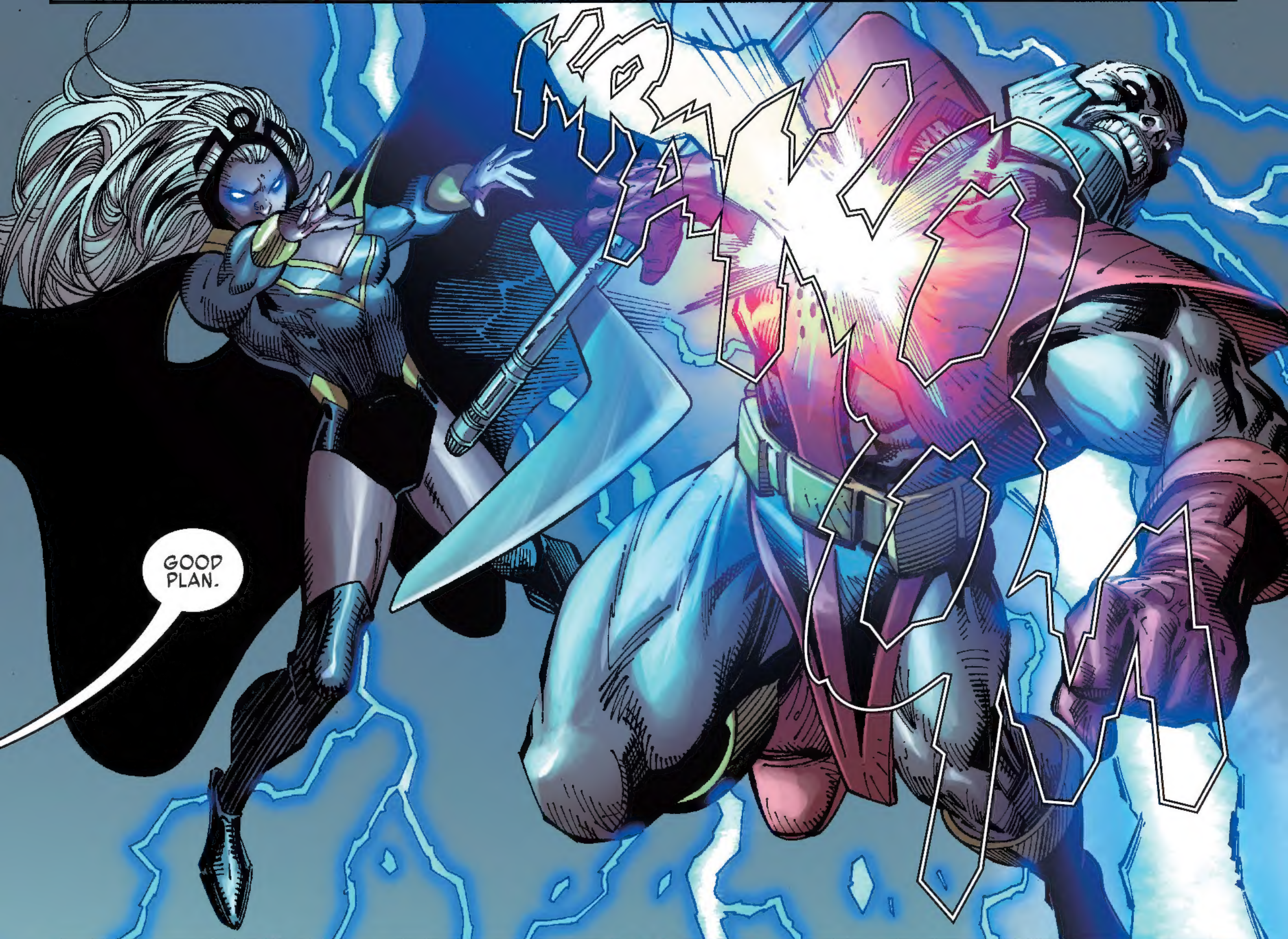
PRESTIGE

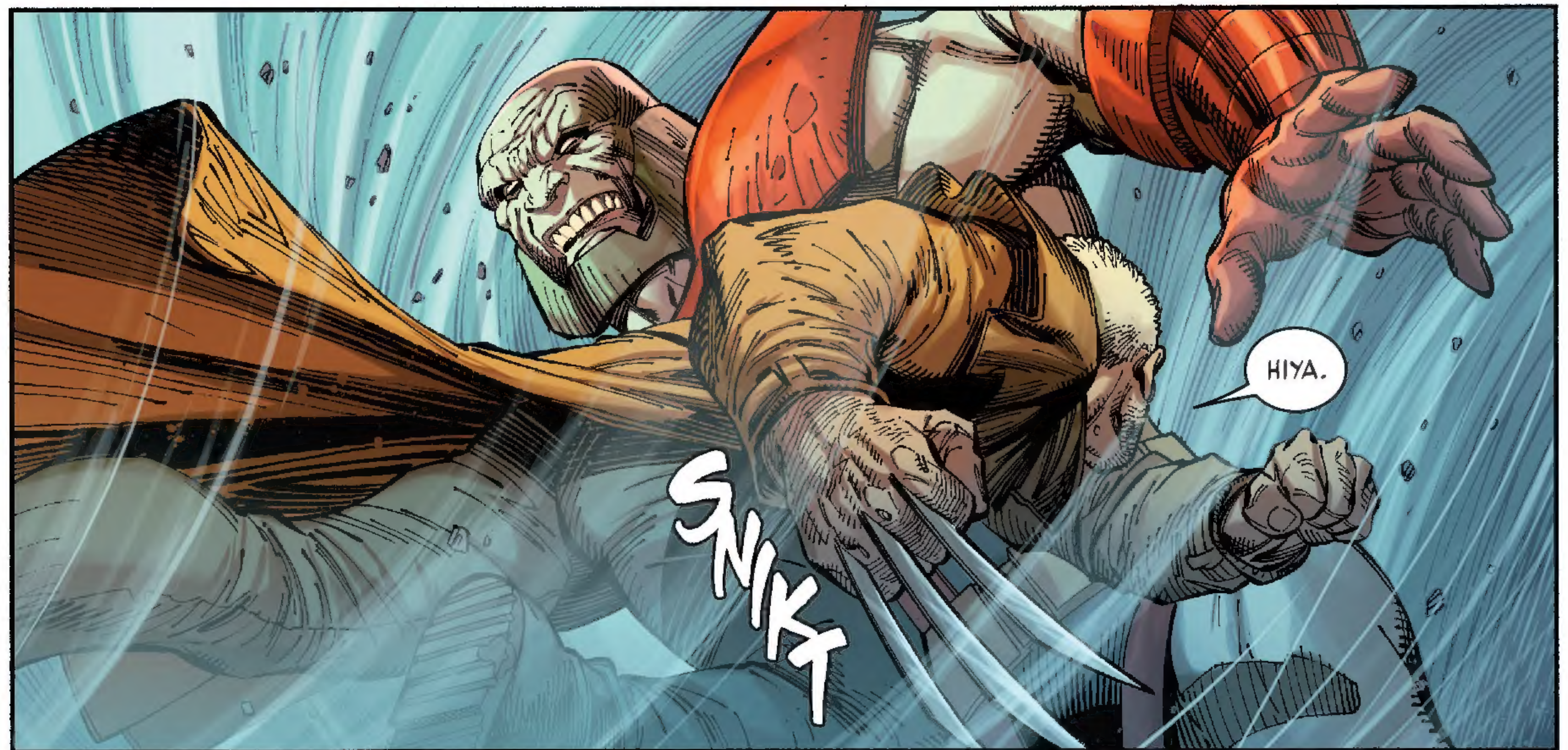


OLD MAN LOGAN

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I'VE
GOT
THIS.



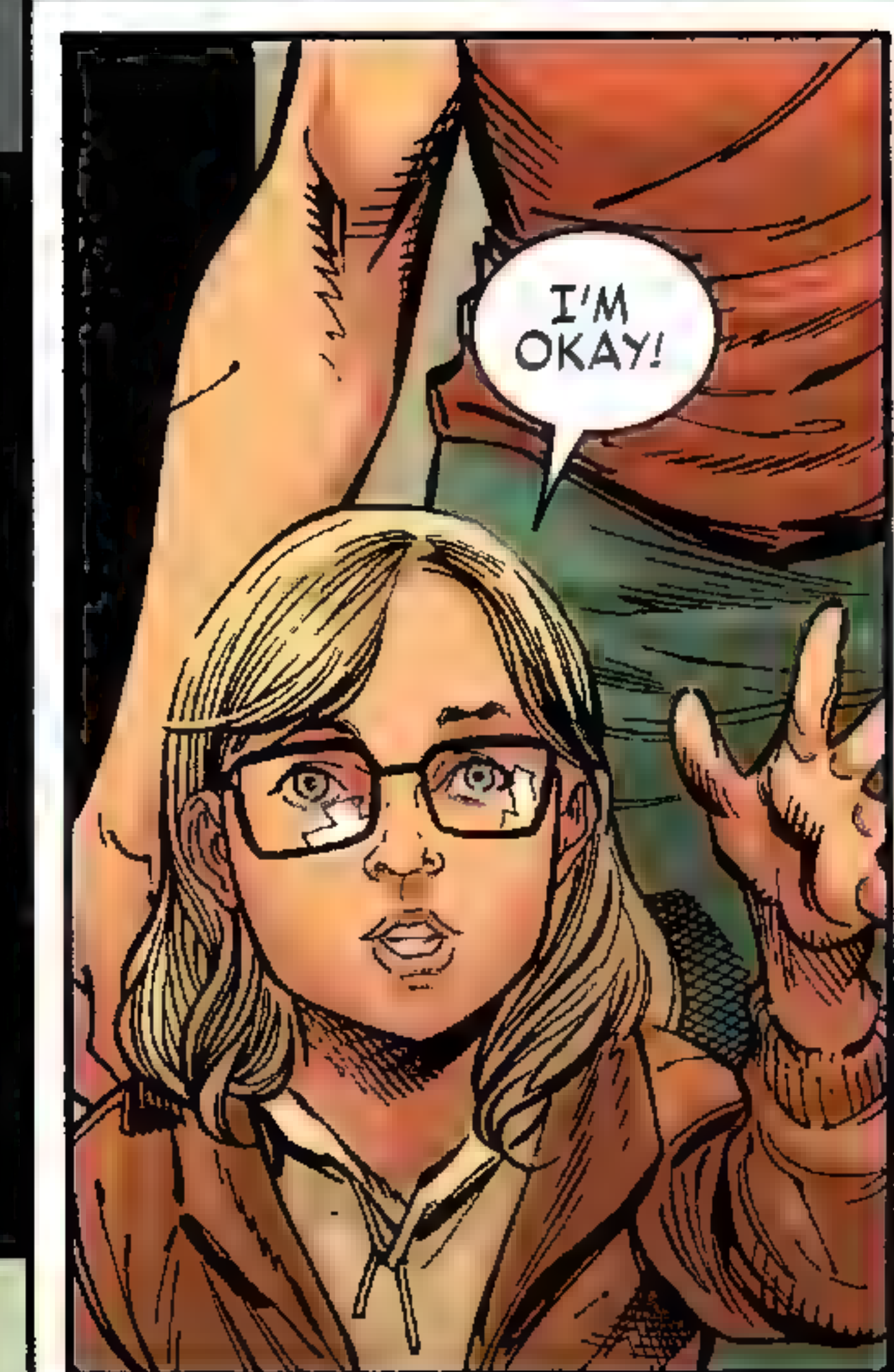


MY NAME IS KITTY PRYDE. I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE A CODENAME, BUT I DON'T.

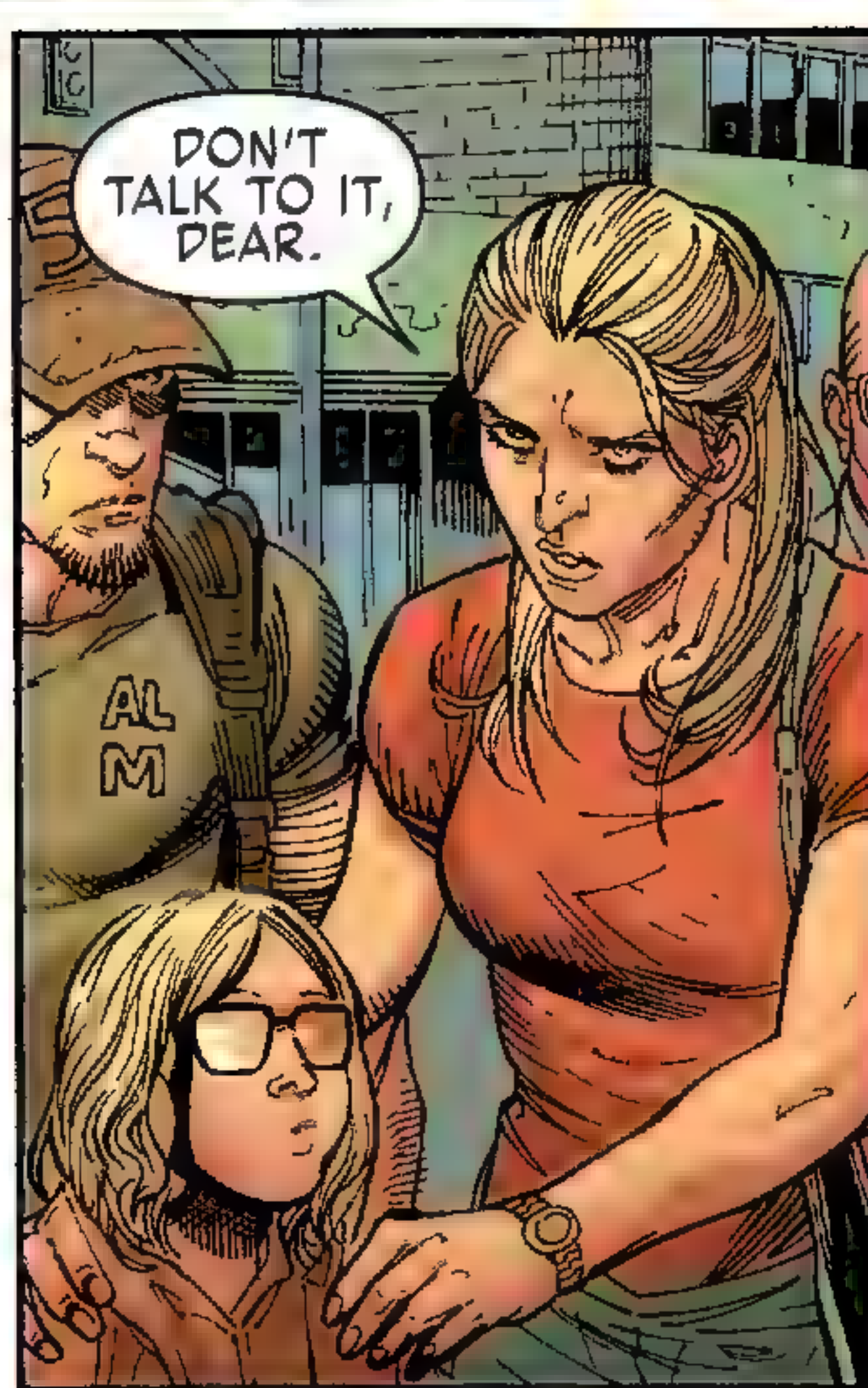
I GUESS I'M A LITTLE INDECISIVE.

EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

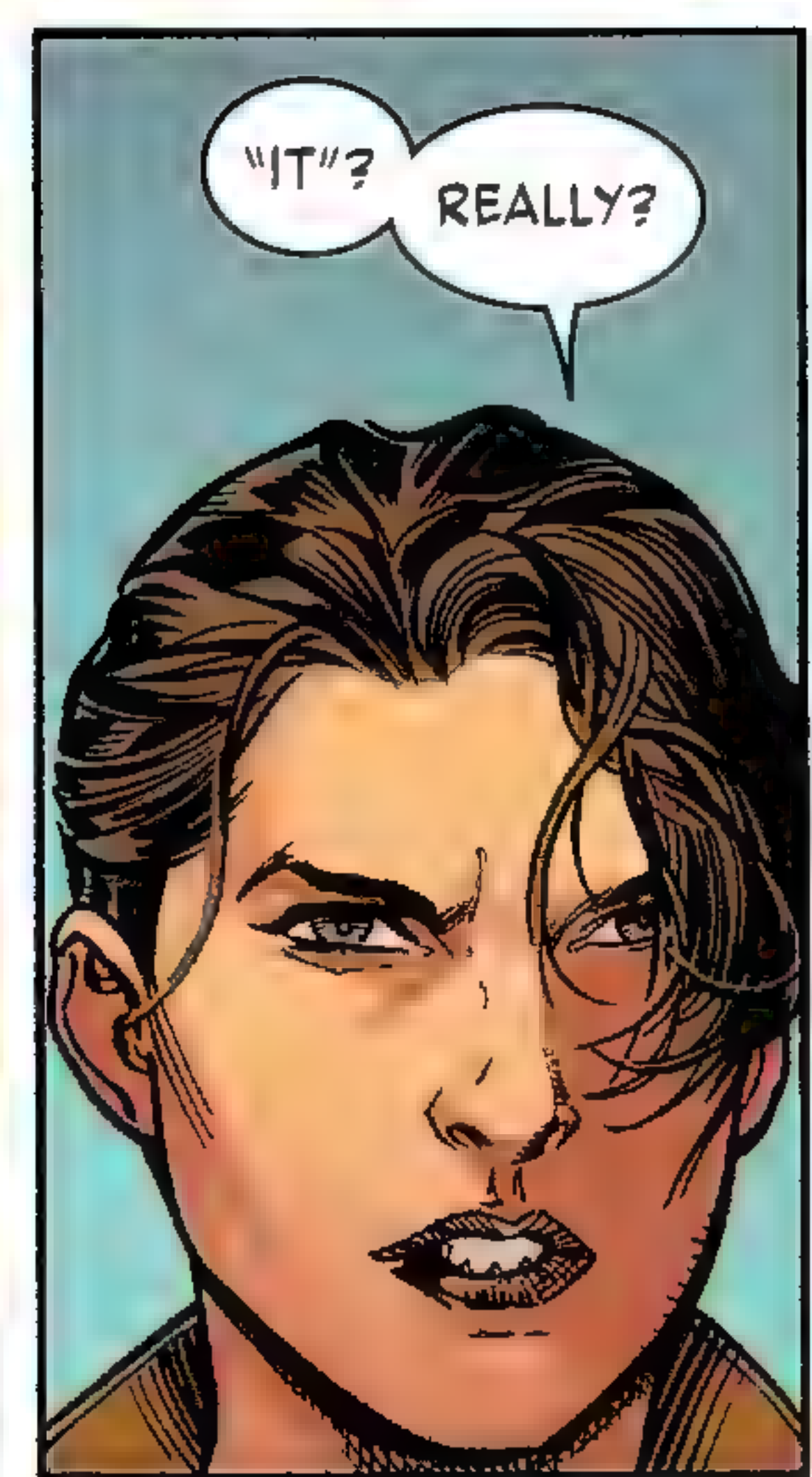
I'M THE X-MEN'S LEADER. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS OKAY.



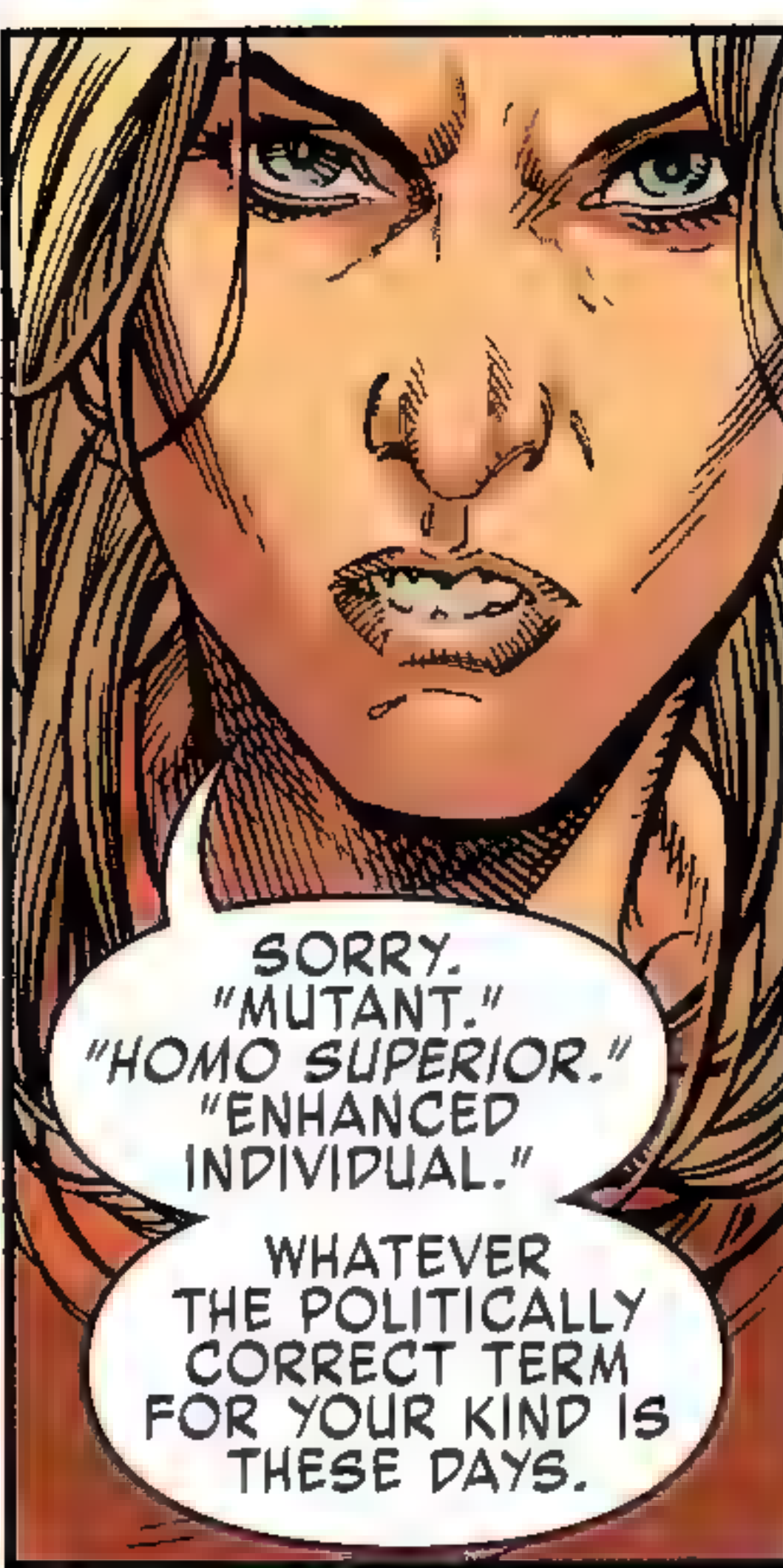
I'M OKAY!



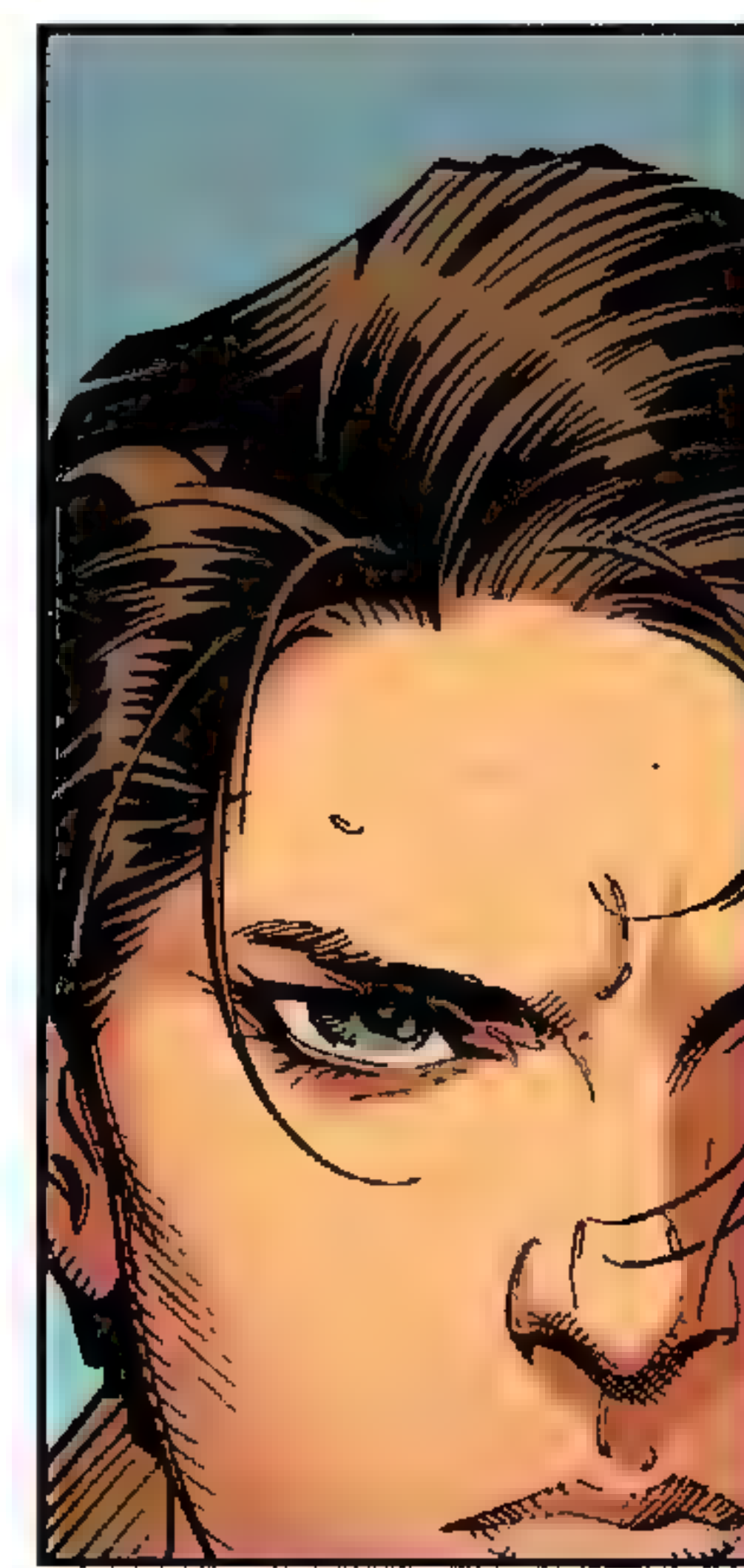
DON'T TALK TO IT, DEAR.



"IT"? REALLY?



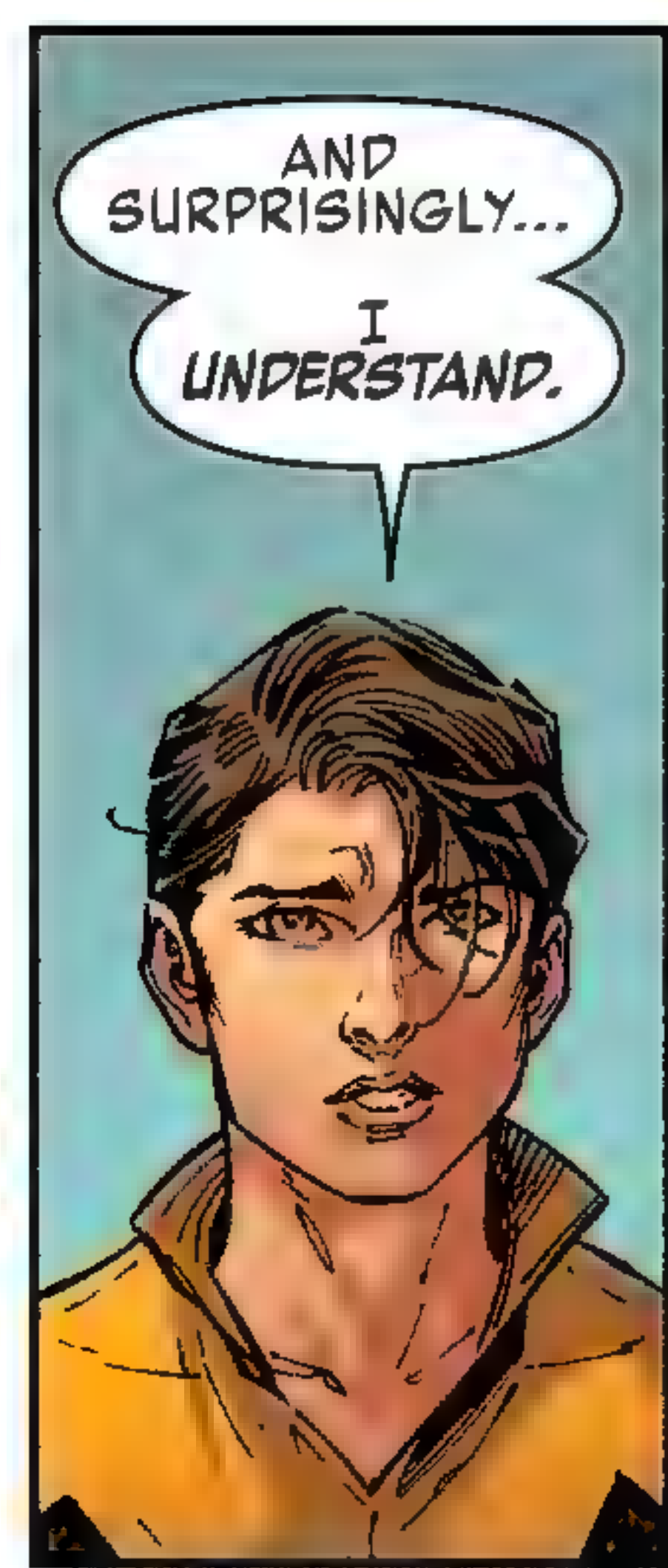
SORRY. "MUTANT." "HOMO SUPERIOR." "ENHANCED INDIVIDUAL." WHATEVER THE POLITICALLY CORRECT TERM FOR YOUR KIND IS THESE DAYS.



I THINK THE WORD YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR IS "PERSON." "HUMAN BEING," EVEN. IF YOU'RE FEELING CHARITABLE.



BUT I SEE THAT YOU'RE NOT.



AND SURPRISINGLY... I UNDERSTAND.



I KNOW IT'S A LONG WAY BACK.

YOU'VE NEVER EXACTLY TRUSTED US, AND I KNOW THINGS ARE DIFFERENT AFTER OUR WAR WITH THE INHUMANS.

I KNOW THAT.

AND I KNOW THAT TO THE EXTENT YOU EVER TRUSTED US, WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO REBUILD THAT TRUST.

BUT WE'RE STARTING TODAY.

"HELLUVA SPEECH, PRYDE..."

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR
MUTANT EDUCATION
AND OUTREACH
CENTRAL PARK.



...VERY XAVIER.

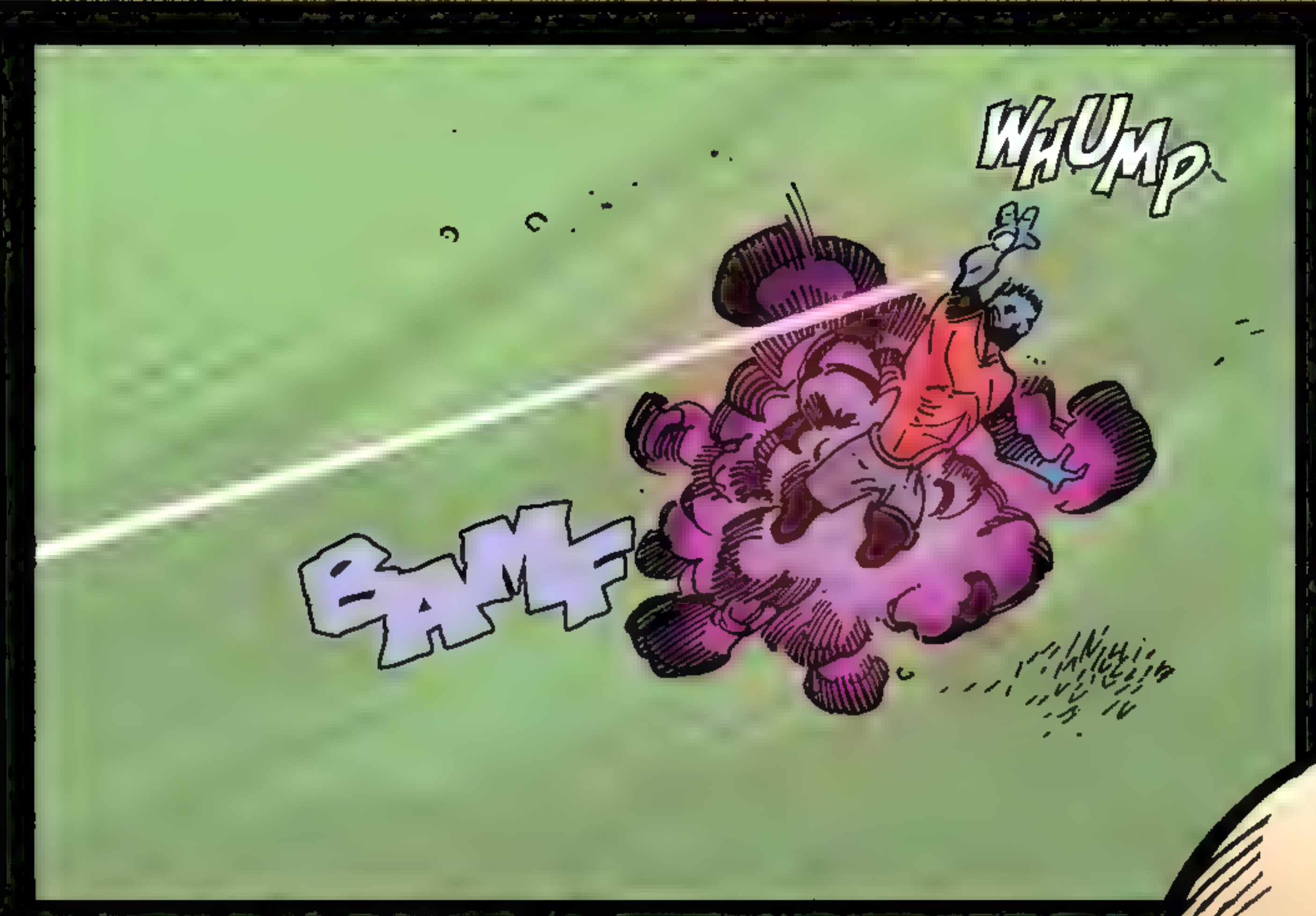
THANKS.

WASN'T NECESSARILY A COMPLIMENT.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, LOGAN.

NOT TRUE.

I'VE GOTTEN GRUMPYER.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE RULE ABOUT NOT USING POWERS?



WHAT
HAPPENED TO
MANY THINGS, I'M
OFTEN COMPELLED
TO ASK.

CHEM
BOL'SHE VSE
MENYAYETSYA...

...THE MORE
THEY STAY THE
SAME.

WHOEVER
COINED THAT
PARTICULAR PHRASE
MUST HAVE BEEN
A MUTANT.

ALWAYS
THOUGHT THESE
GAMES WERE A
WASTE OF
TIME.

BUT I WAS
WRONG.

IS THAT YOU,
MYSTIQUE?
'CAUSE THERE'S
NO WAY...

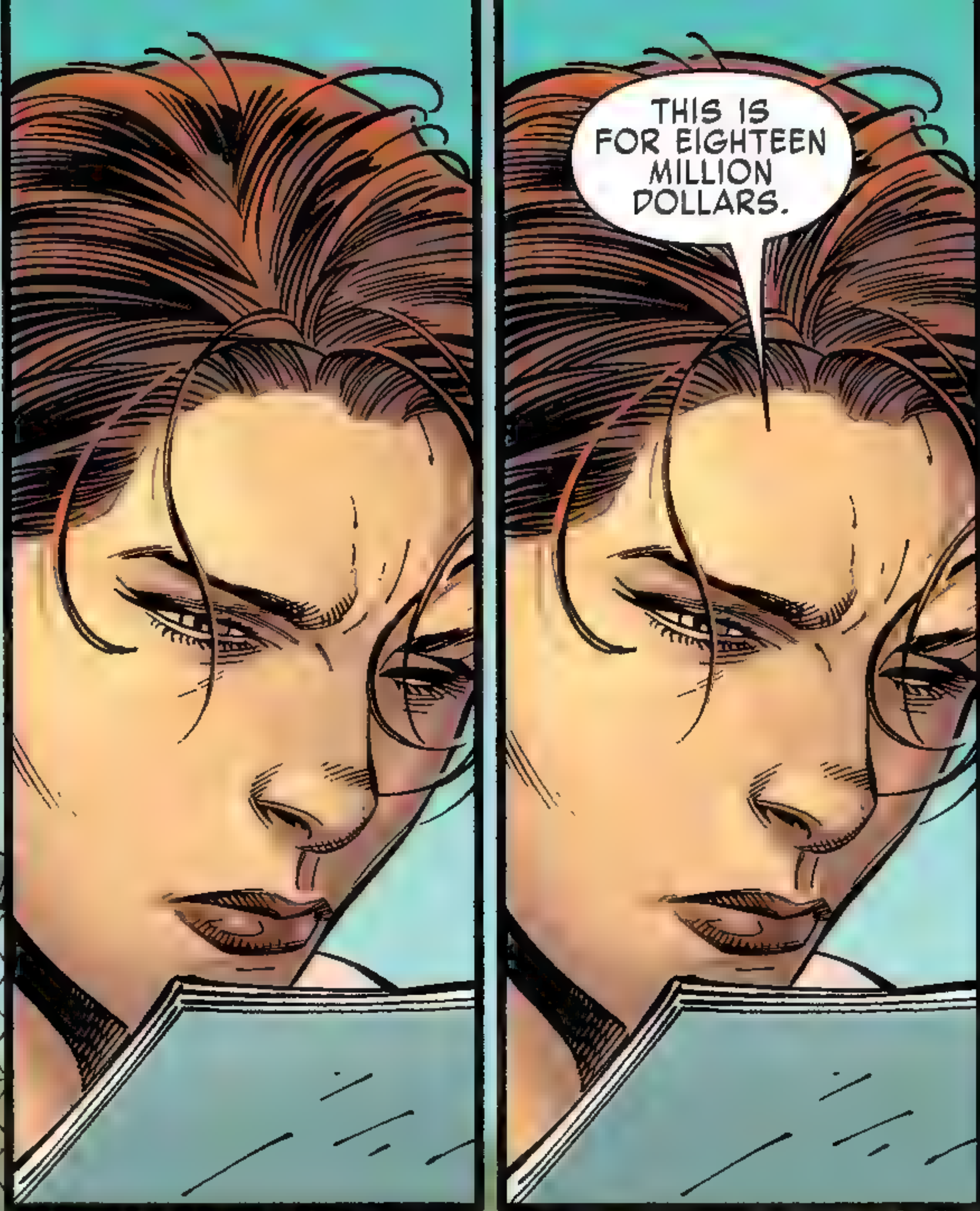
CUTE.

BUT I'M
SERIOUS.

SOFTBALL'S
NORMAL. AND
NORMAL'S ALWAYS
BEEN IN SHORT
SUPPLY FOR THIS
OUTFIT.

IT'S LIKE
GOLD.



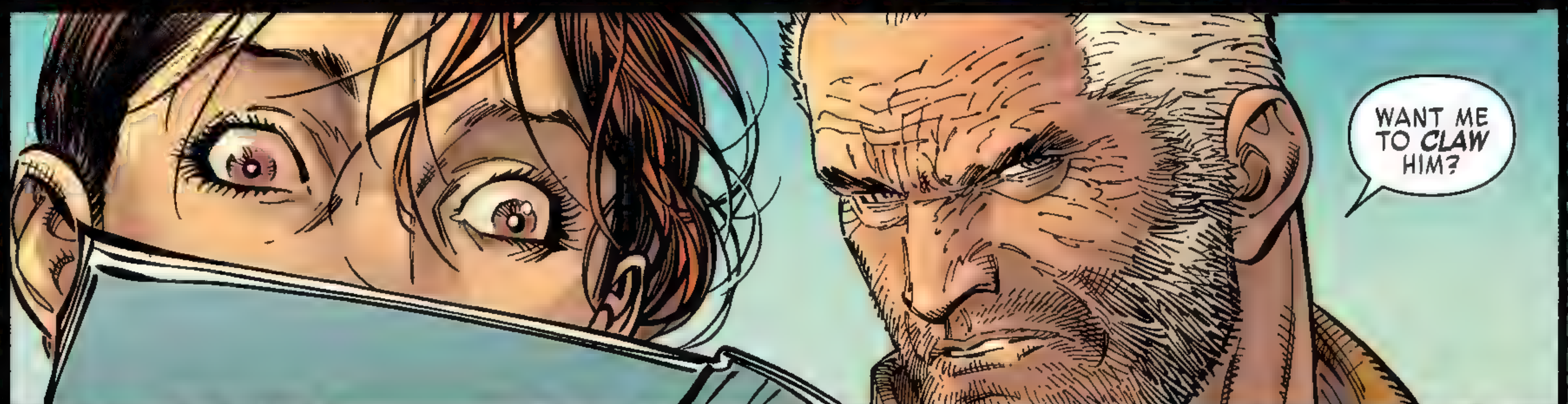
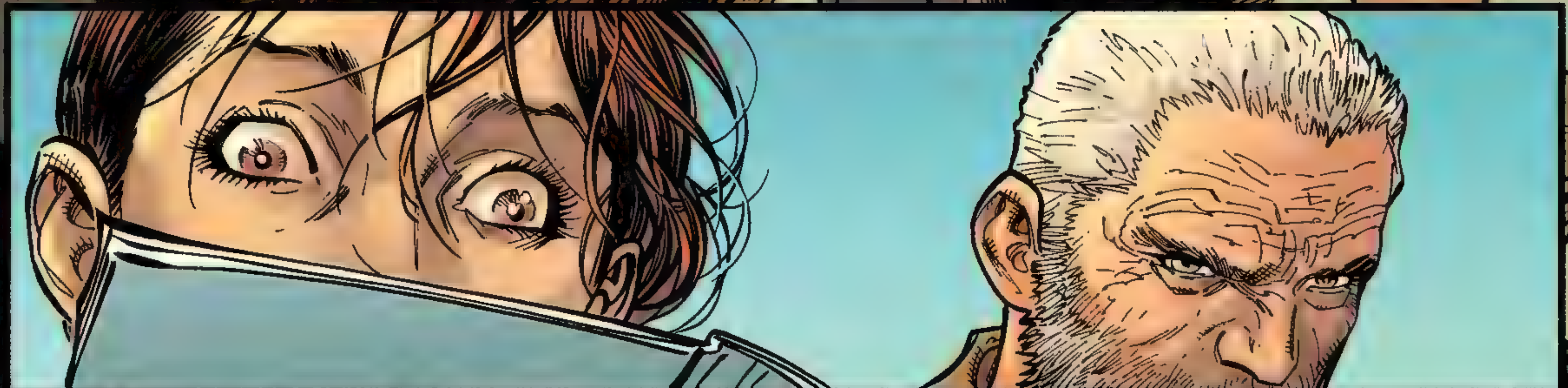


THIS IS
FOR EIGHTEEN
MILLION
DOLLARS.



THIS IS
CENTRAL
PARK.

ARGUABLY,
THE MOST VALUABLE
RESIDENTIAL REAL
ESTATE IN THE ENTIRE
WORLD.



WANT ME
TO CLAW
HIM?



MUTANTS ARE THE ONLY PHYLUM THAT SPONTANEOUSLY ENHANCES.

THAT X-GENOME IS A TICKING EVOLUTIONARY TIME BOMB.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME...

PETER SAID THE SAME THING TO ME THIS AFTERNOON.



BUT THERE'S ANOTHER EPIGRAM I'VE BEEN CONSIDERING, KURT, ONE FAVORED BY MAGNETO.

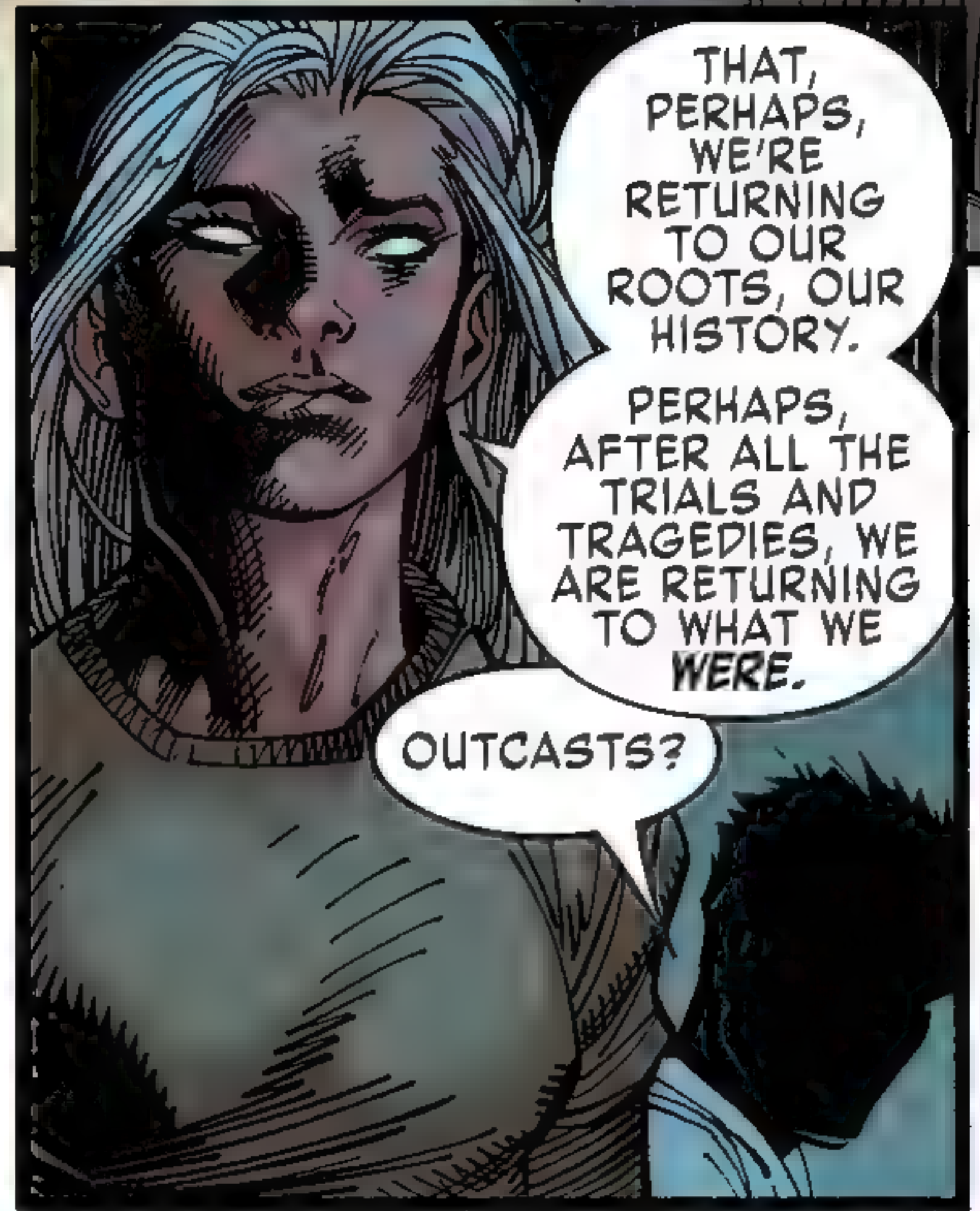
"THE PAST IS PROLOGUE."



I'D APPRECIATE YOU NOT QUOTING MAGNETO OF ALL PEOPLE.

IT'S SHAKESPEARE, IN FACT.

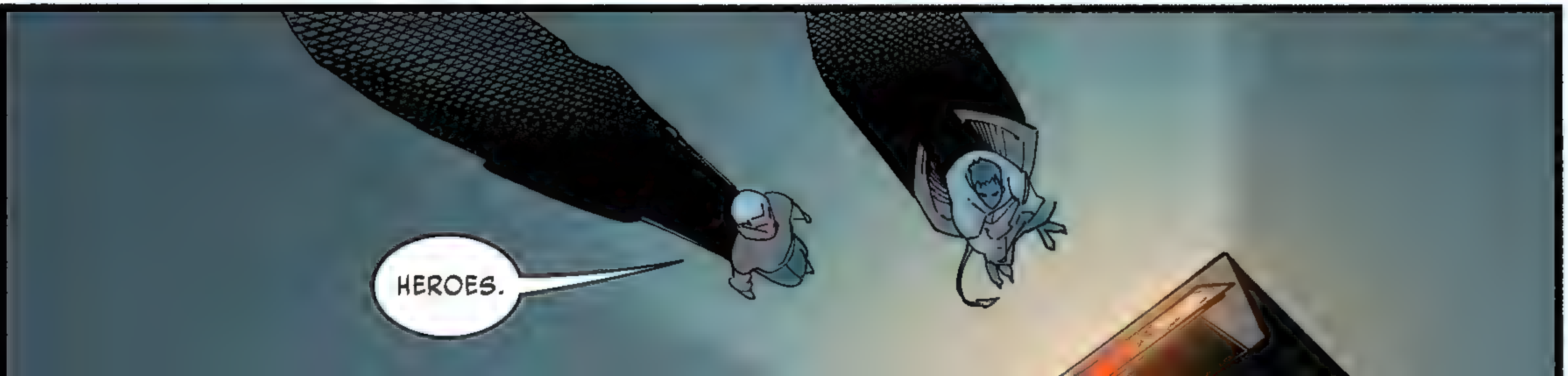
BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY IT?



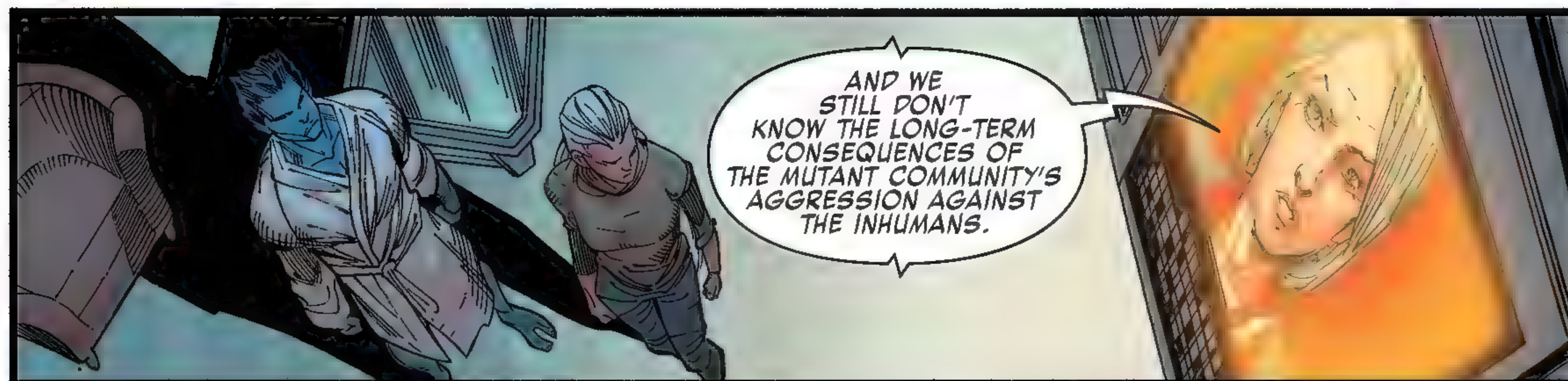
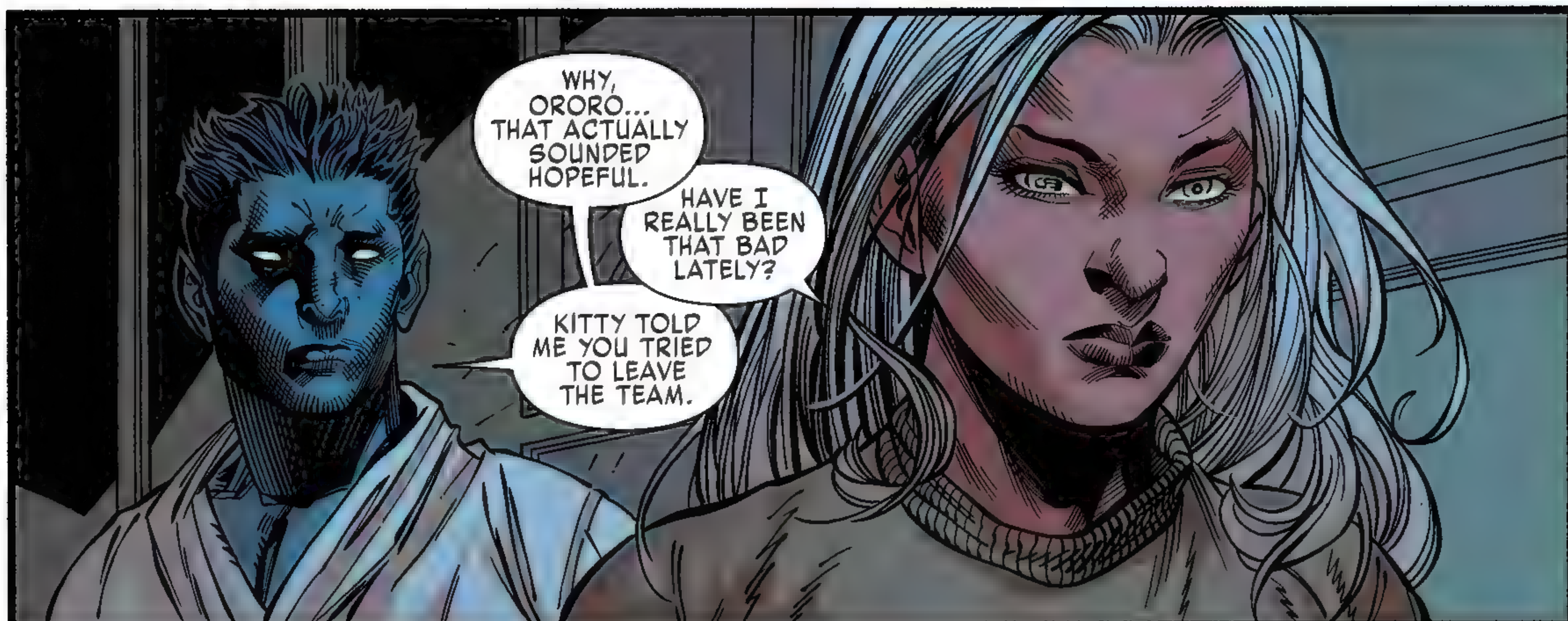
THAT, PERHAPS, WE'RE RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS, OUR HISTORY.

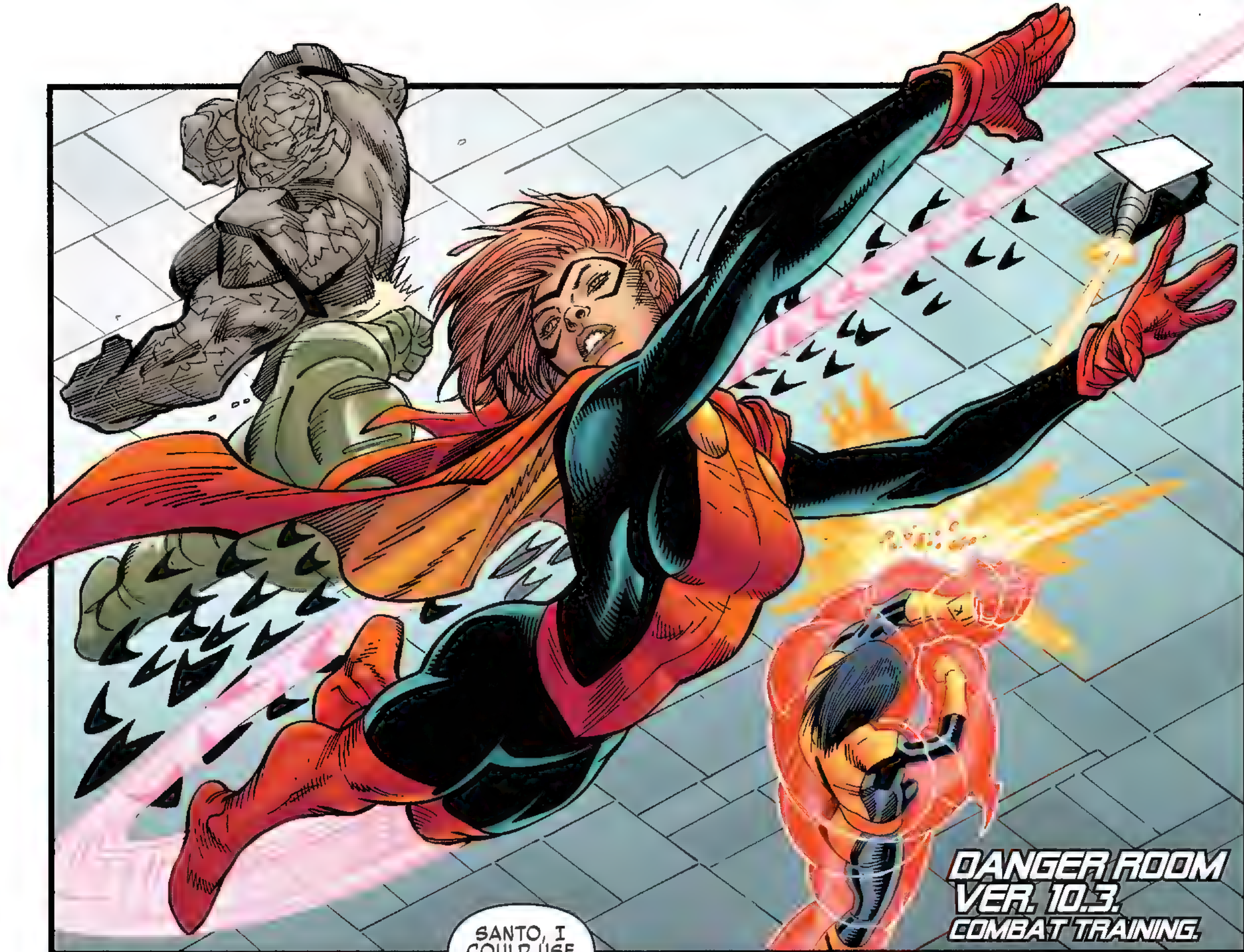
PERHAPS, AFTER ALL THE TRIALS AND TRAGEDIES, WE ARE RETURNING TO WHAT WE WERE.

OUTCASTS?



HEROES.





SANTO, I
COULD USE
SOME HELP
HERE.

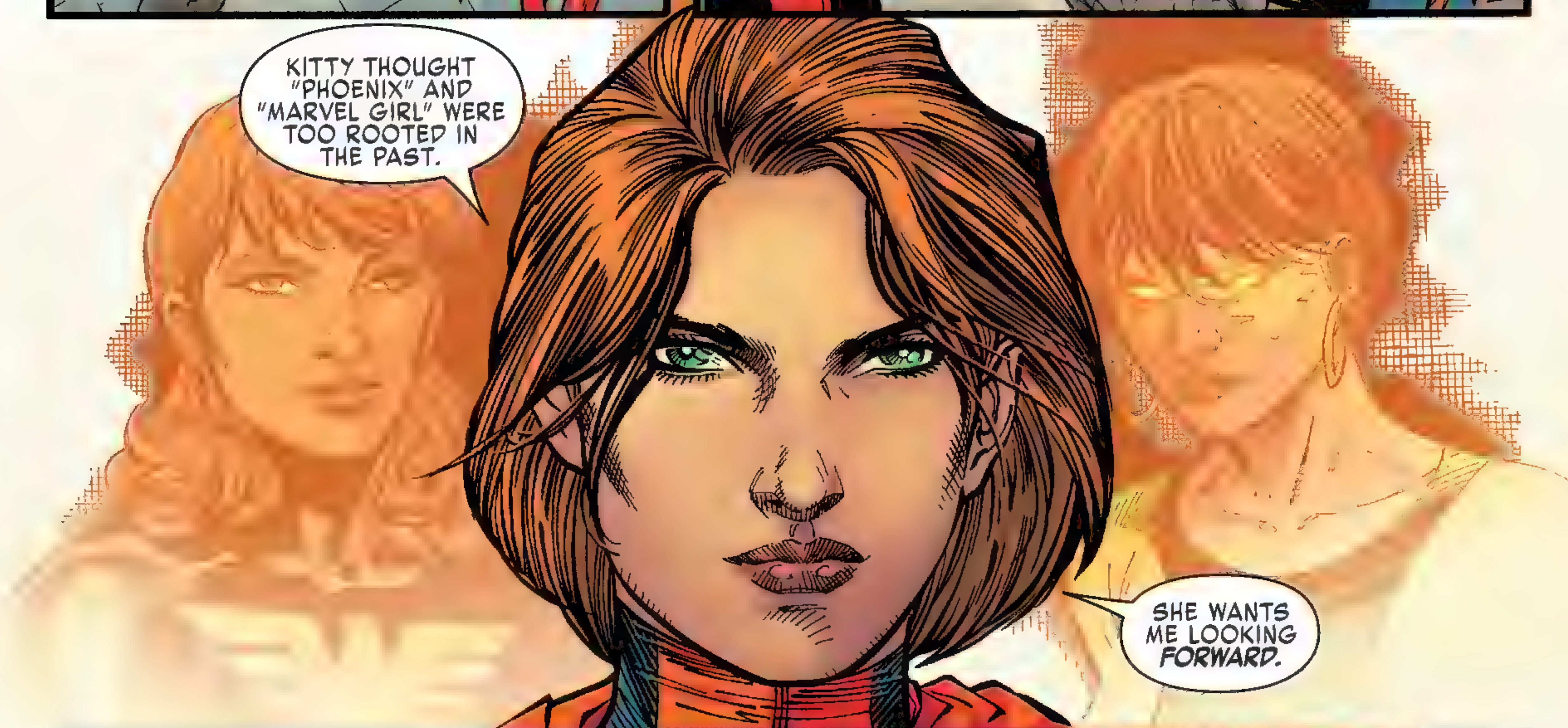


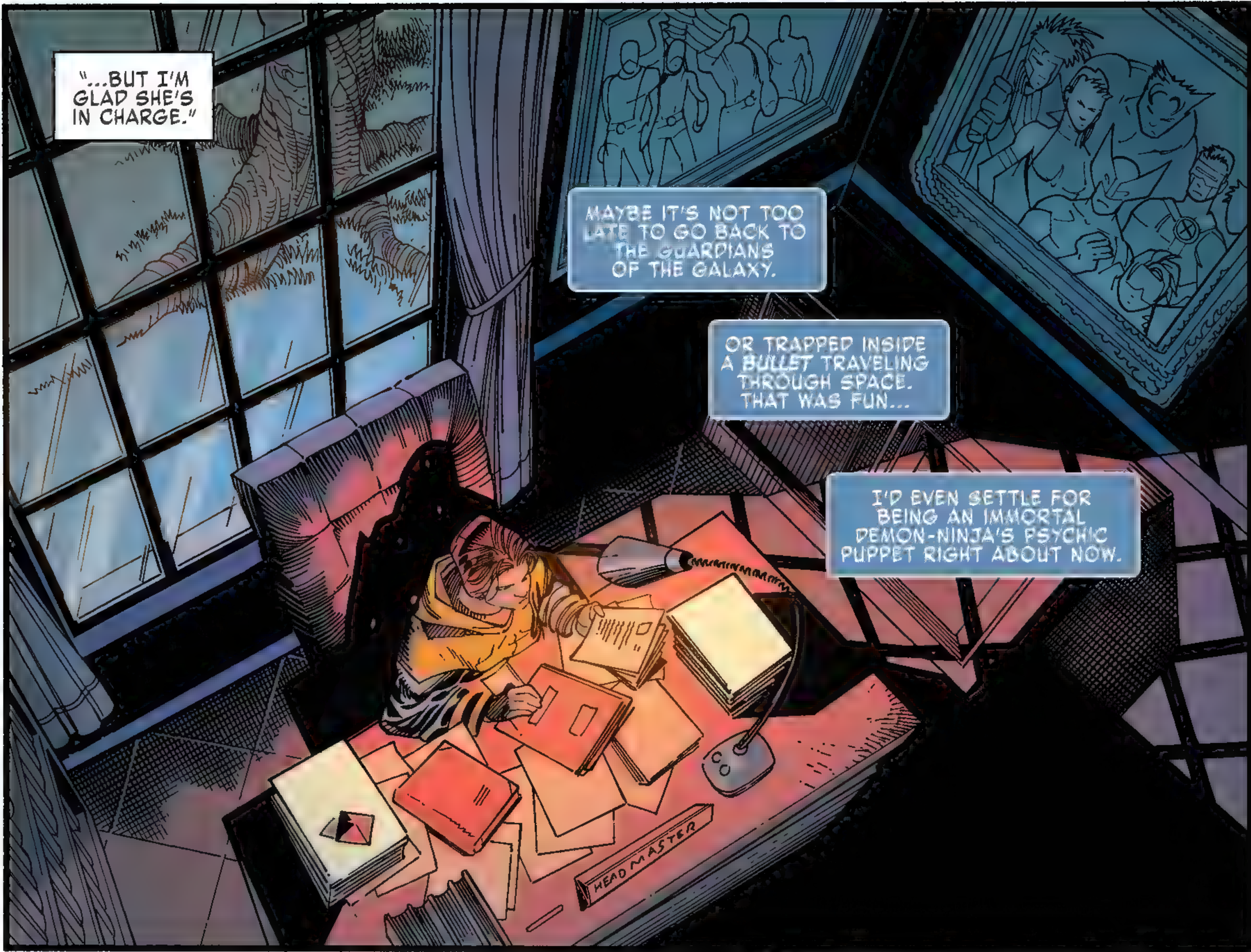
HANG
ON.



I'VE GOT
THIS.







"...BUT I'M
GLAD SHE'S
IN CHARGE."

MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO
LATE TO GO BACK TO
THE GUARDIANS
OF THE GALAXY.

OR TRAPPED INSIDE
A BULLET TRAVELING
THROUGH SPACE.
THAT WAS FUN...

I'D EVEN SETTLE FOR
BEING AN IMMORTAL
DEMON-NINJA'S PSYCHIC
PUPPET RIGHT ABOUT NOW.



THIS USED TO
BE YOUR DESK,
PROFESSOR.

I THINK OF
YOU A LOT.
ALMOST
EVERY DAY.



I SURVIVED
THE EXPERIENCE.



KATYA?
DO YOU HAVE
A MINUTE?

JUST HAD TO
GO AND JINX
MYSELF,
DIDN'T I?



CASUAL.
SOUND
CASUAL.

NICE
JOB

HEY.
WHAT'S
UP?



I ORDERED
IN SOME
DINNER.

ONE OF
THE ADVANTAGES
OF LIVING IN THE
MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN,
THERE IS NO SHORTAGE
OF RESTAURANTS TO
CHOOSE FROM.

I ORDERED
PIZZA. CHICAGO
STYLE.

MY
FAVORITE.

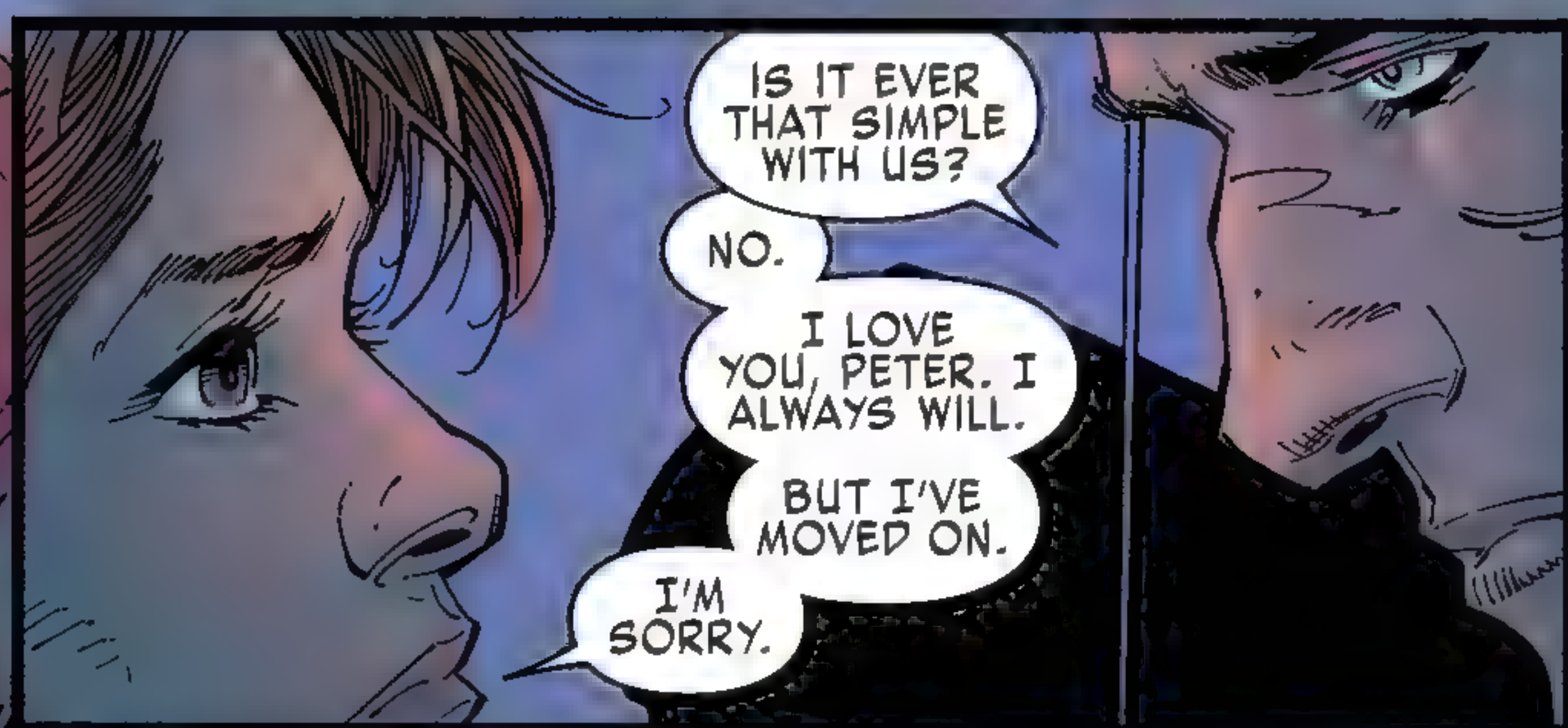
WOULD
YOU CARE
TO JOIN
ME?



NO.

I MEAN,
AS FRIENDS,
SURE. ALWAYS.
NO PROBLEM.

BUT YOU
DIDN'T MEAN AS
FRIENDS, RIGHT?



IS IT EVER
THAT SIMPLE
WITH US?

NO.

I LOVE
YOU, PETER. I
ALWAYS WILL.

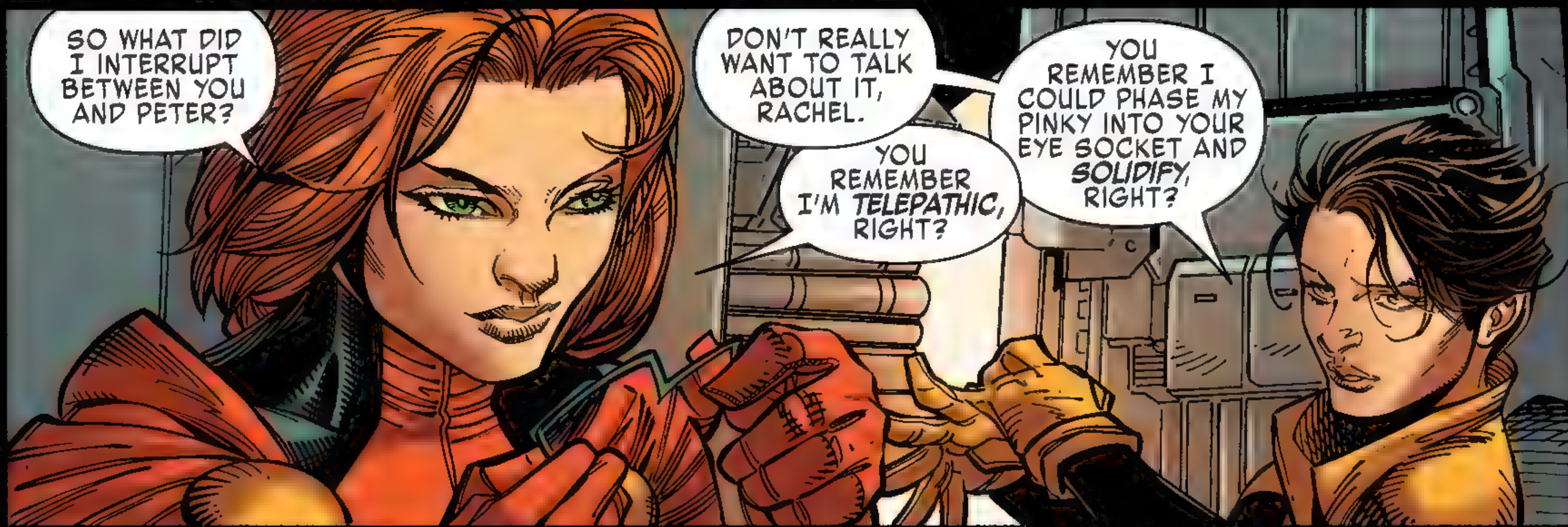
BUT I'VE
MOVED ON.

I'M
SORRY.

IF THERE'S ANY KIND OF
GOD AT ALL, SOMEONE WILL
ATTACK THE CITY RIGHT NOW.

SOMEONE'S
ATTACKING
THE CITY.

GREAT. NOW I
FEEL LIKE THE WORST
PERSON EVER.



SO WHAT DID I INTERRUPT BETWEEN YOU AND PETER?

DON'T REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, RACHEL.

YOU REMEMBER I COULD PHASE MY PINKY INTO YOUR EYE SOCKET AND **SOLIDIFY**, RIGHT?

YOU REMEMBER I'M **TELEPATHIC**, RIGHT?



TESTY.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SOMEONE IS ATTACKING THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING. A FIVE-PERSON UNIT ACCORDING TO S.H.I.E.L.D. INTEL.

RACHEL, PULL THE INFORMATION FROM ORORO'S MEMORY AND DOWNLOAD US ALL EN ROUTE.

KURT...



...YOU'RE DRIVING.

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,
MANHATTAN.**



RACHEL,
ORORO...FLY INTO
THE CENTER OF THE
BUILDING. TAKE PETER
WITH YOU AND SEE IF
HE CAN STABILIZE
IT.

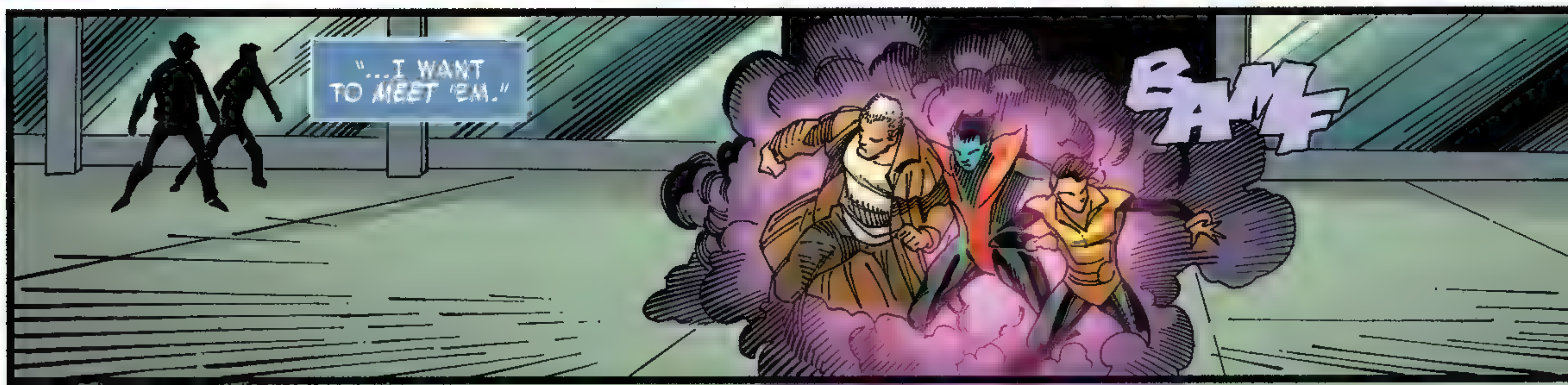
KURT, YOU'RE
'PORTING ME AND
LOGAN TO GROUND-
LEVEL SO WE CAN
ASSESS THE
SITUATION.

WHAT'S TO
"ASSESS"?
SOMEONE RIPPED
A BIG, FLAMIN' HOLE
IN THE PLACE.

S.H.I.E.L.D.
MENTIONED A
FIVE-MAN TEAM...



"...I WANT
TO MEET 'EM."





WISH
GRANTED,
KÄTZCHEN.

WHO
ARE THESE
JOKERS?

IT'S NOT
OBVIOUS,
GRANDPA?

WE'RE THE
BROTHERHOOD
OF EVIL
MUTANTS.

SNIKT
SNIKT

TO BE CONTINUED!

X-MEN

THE ROAD TO
GOLD



1 Mutants are humans born with an extra gene granting them superhuman abilities at puberty; the X-Men are mutants gathered by Professor Charles Xavier to protect mutantkind from those who fear and hate them. Among Xavier's earliest X-Men and students at his upstate New York school were the optic-energy-blasting Cyclops (Scott Summers) and the psychic Marvel Girl (Jean Grey).



2 Xavier's later recruits included the regal, weather-controlling Storm (Ororo Munroe); the swashbuckling, blue-skinned German acrobat Nightcrawler (Kurt Wagner), who could teleport and had a prehensile tail; the artistically inclined Russian farmer Colossus (Piotr "Peter" Rasputin), who could become a super-strong, metallic titan; and the mysterious, animalistic Canadian called Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett), whose regenerative abilities allowed him to survive having the indestructible metal Adamantium fused to his skeleton and claws.



3 Though disparate in personality, the new X-Men embraced their mission; under Cyclops' leadership, the team members learned to trust each other with their lives through countless battles. The X-Men defeated the reality-warping Proteus when Colossus was forced to capitalize on Proteus's vulnerability to metal, using his own body to kill for the first time.



4 Gradually, the X-Men discovered more about Wolverine, learning that his name was Logan—and that his bare-knuckle, bestial nature hid a noble soul, and a samurai's dedication to protecting his family and the innocent from harm.

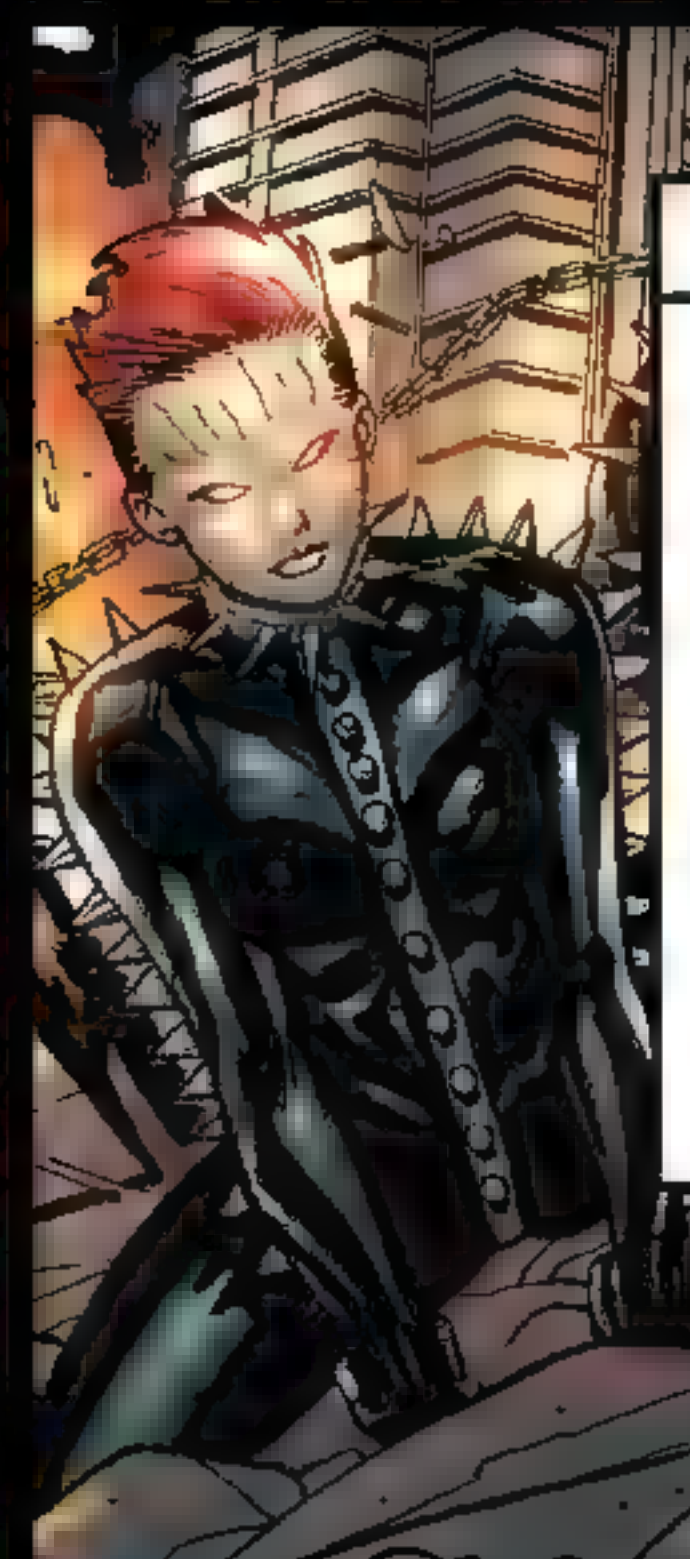


5 When the X-Men located a new mutant named Katherine "Kitty" Pryde, the 13-year-old computer genius chose to attend Xavier's school, using her ability to phase through other objects as Sprite. Kitty quickly became an adopted kid sister to her teammates, and found a surrogate mother figure in Storm.

Kitty's psyche was swapped with that of Kate Pryde, her adult self from a dystopian future in which mutants had been hunted to near-extinction by robotic Sentinels. Hoping to change her present, Kate helped the modern-era X-Men prevent the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants from assassinating Sen. Robert Kelly—the event that caused the mutant persecution in her past. After Kelly was saved, Kitty's psyche returned to her own time.



7 During the X-Men's battle against the Brotherhood, Nightcrawler encountered the team's shape-shifting leader, Mystique, and was shocked to discover that her true form closely resembled his own.



8 Also living in Kate's future was Rachel Summers, daughter of Scott Summers and Jean Grey, who had been tortured and brainwashed into becoming a Hound that telepathically hunted mutants so they could be executed. After escaping, the deeply traumatized Rachel used her psionics to hide her Hound tattoos from others.

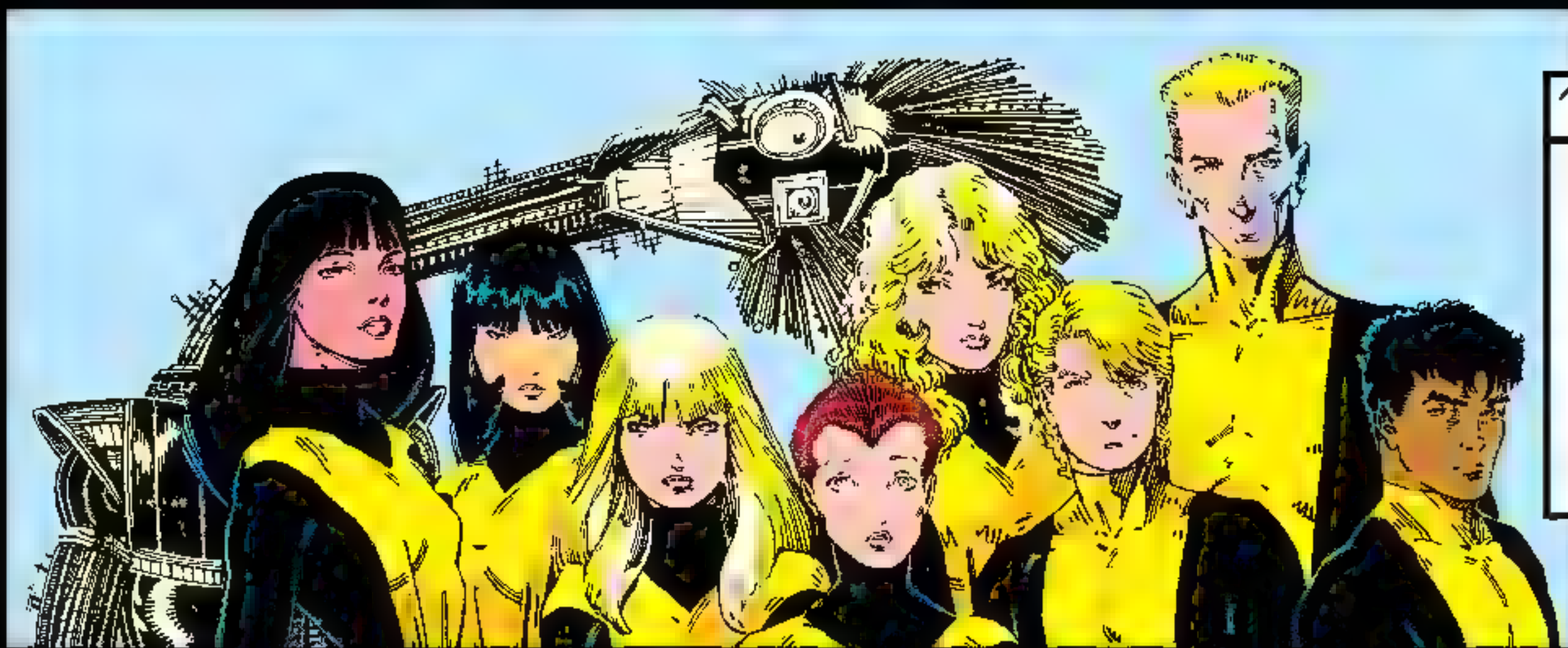


9

The initial attraction between Colossus and Kitty—the two youngest X-Men—eventually bloomed into a full-blown romance, and the two fell in love.

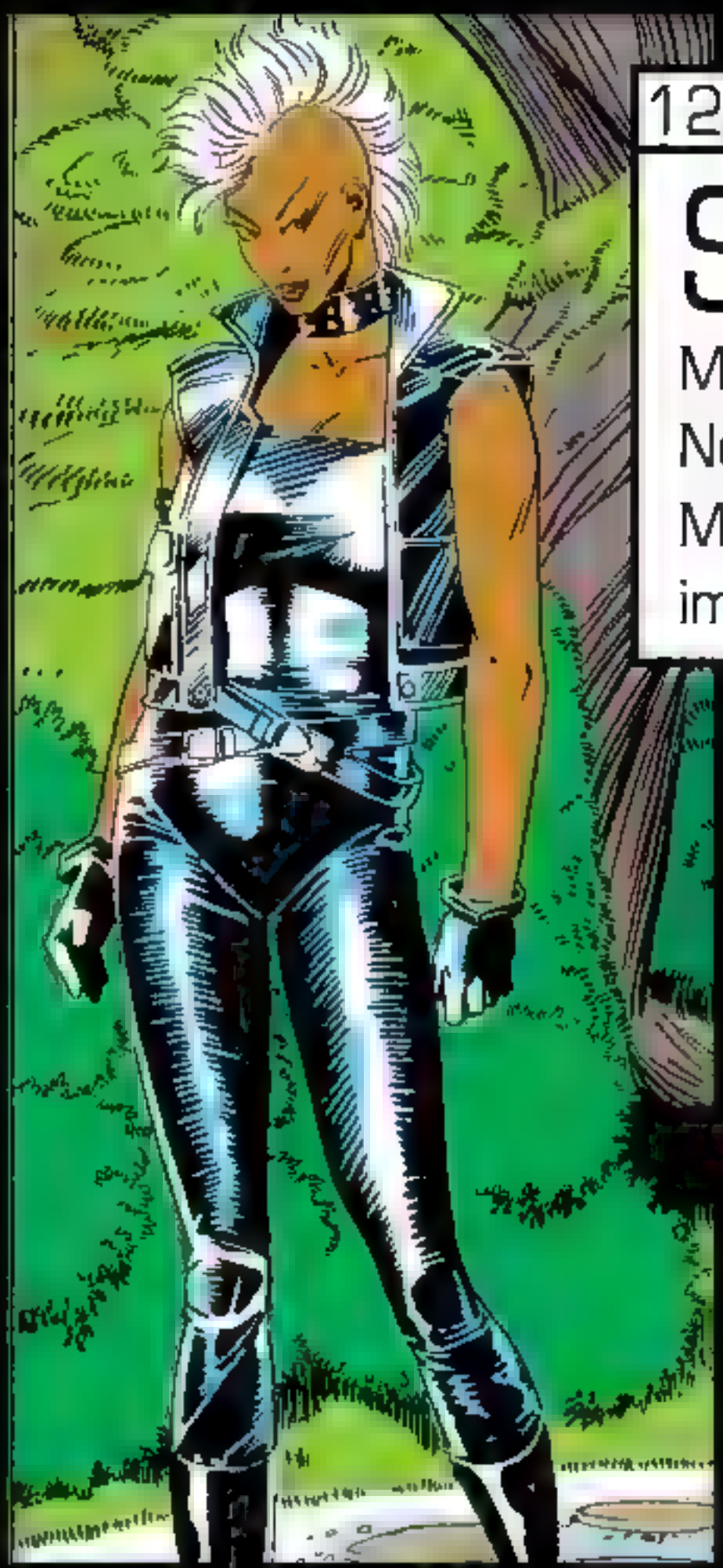
10

In space, Kitty met the other great love of her life: a housecat-sized dragon that helped her battle murderous parasites. The dragon stowed away on the X-Men's return trip to Earth, and Kitty named him Lockheed; the two became constant companions, through thick and thin.



11

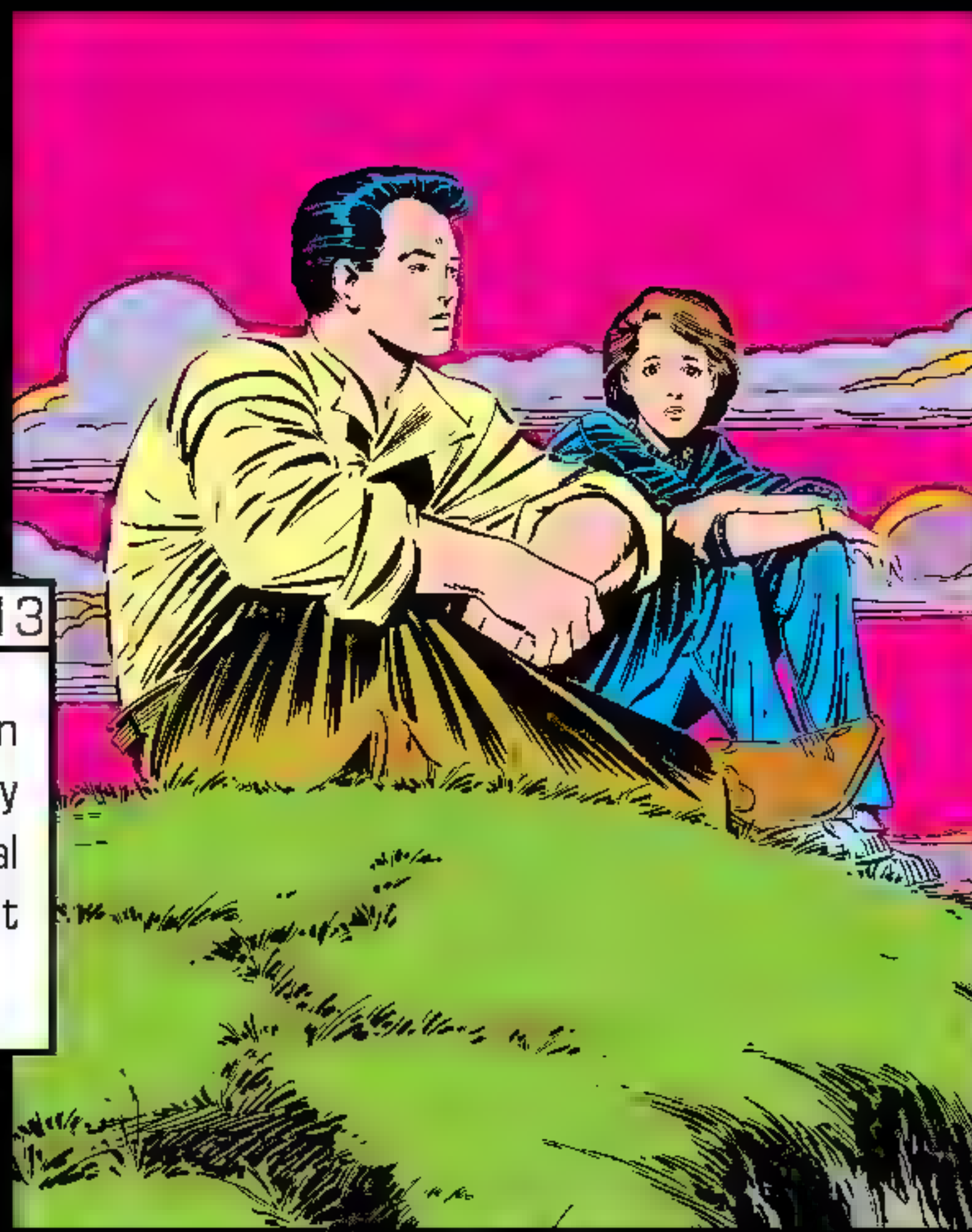
The X-Men's family grew larger when they became mentors to the New Mutants, Xavier's latest students, including Colossus' younger sister, Magik (Illyana Rasputin)—the teleporting, sorcerous lord of the demonic realm known as Limbo (Otherplace)—and Magma (Amara Aquilla), who could control heat, lava, and tectonics.



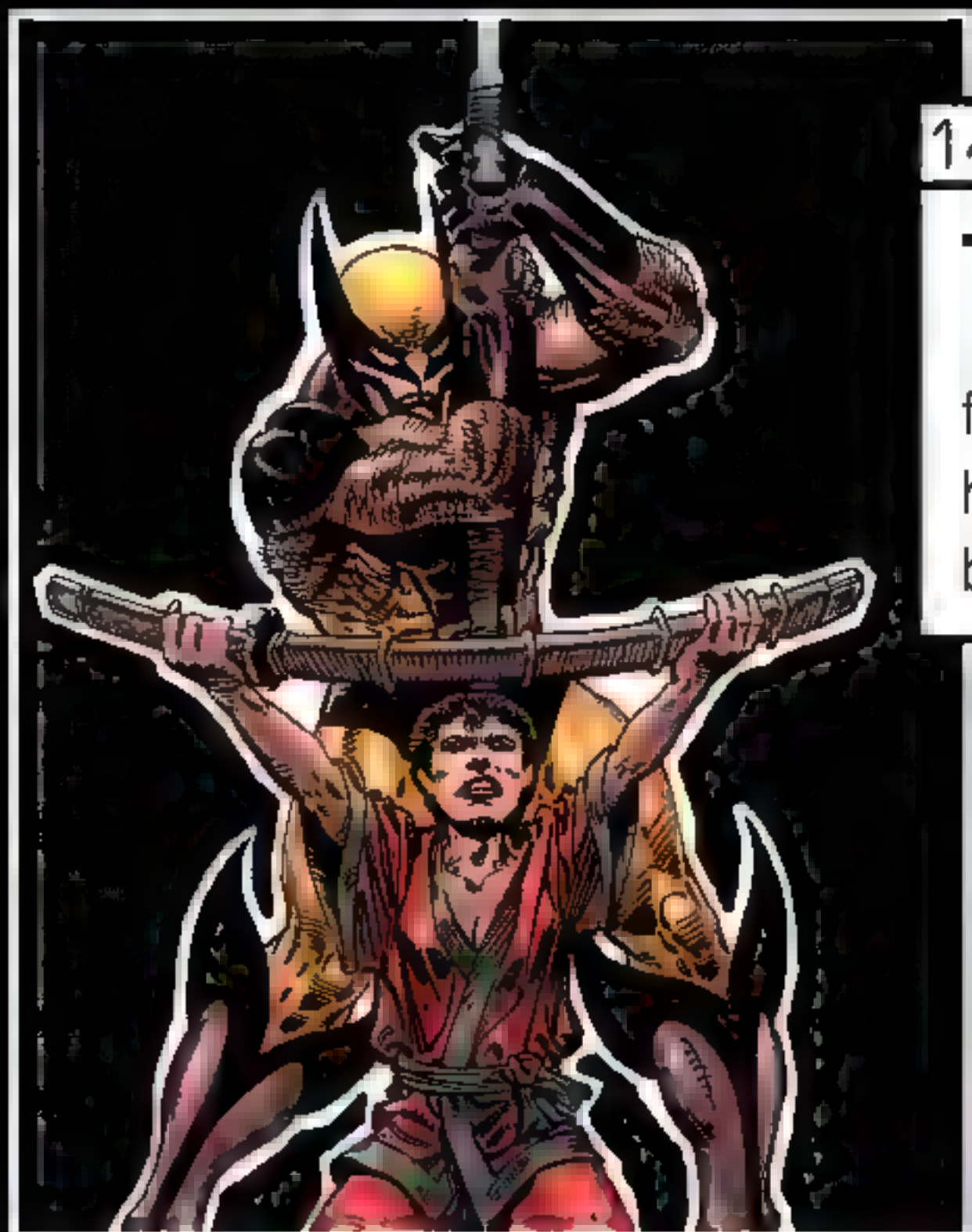
12

Storm took over as the X-Men's leader after Cyclops' departure, and gradually became hardened. During a battle with Callisto, leader of the Morlocks—mutants who shunned humanity to live in tunnels deep below New York City, and whose numbers included the deranged, flesh-molding Masque—Storm stabbed Callisto in the heart, then drastically changed her image to match her new spirit.

Already reeling from the changes in Storm, Kitty's heart was broken when Colossus returned from an extended battle in a distant galaxy only to end their relationship. Though his feelings for a beautiful extraterrestrial he met there had been a side effect of her healing powers, Colossus still felt he could no longer continue loving Kitty.



13



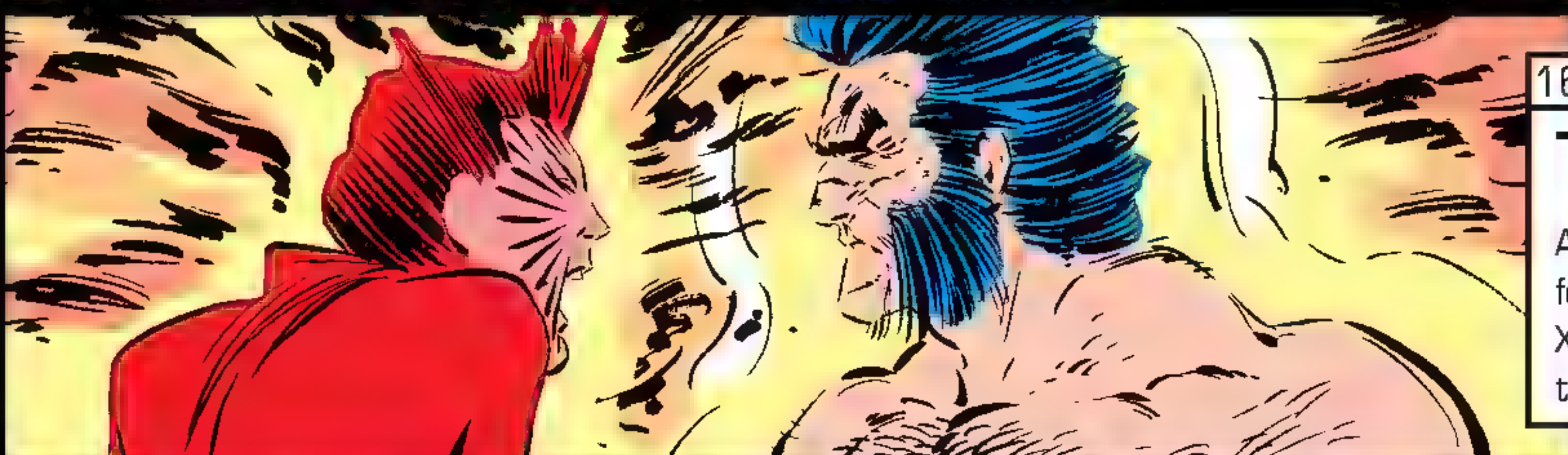
14

The mystic Ogun mesmerized Kitty and trained her in ninjitsu, intending for her to be the perfect assassin. However, his control was broken when he sent her to kill his former student, Wolverine. After Wolverine killed Ogun, Kitty retained the skills Ogun had imparted and changed her name to Shadowcat. She and Wolverine became deeply bonded through this experience.

Returning to her future, Kate Pryde learned she had diverged timelines, leaving her reality unchanged. To spare Rachel from a grisly death, Kate pled with the massively powerful Phoenix Force—the nexus of all psionic energy—to physically transport Rachel to the X-Men she had met in the past. There, Rachel was hunted by the immortal, vampiric Selene, their subsequent battle garnering Xavier's attention.

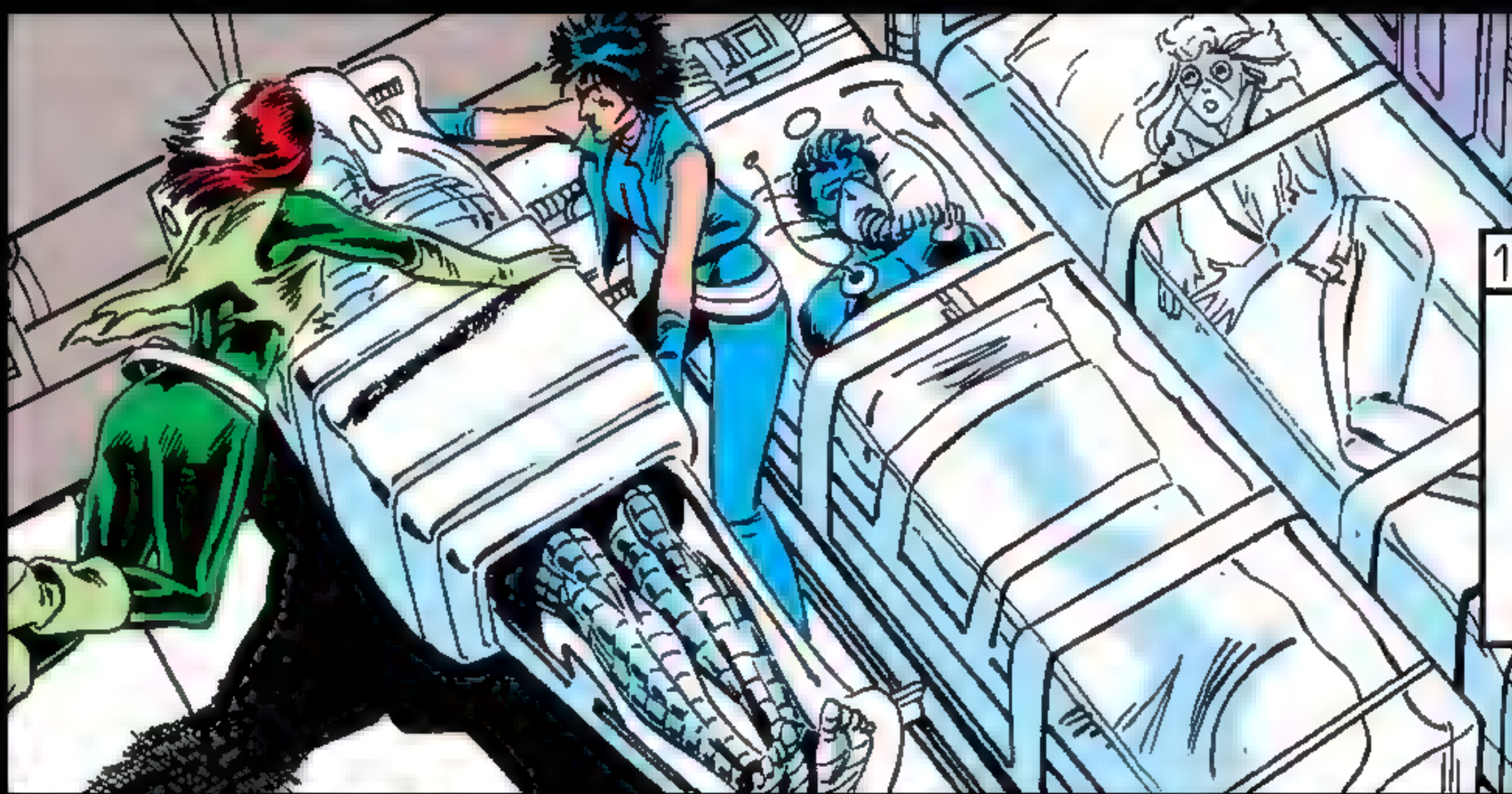


15



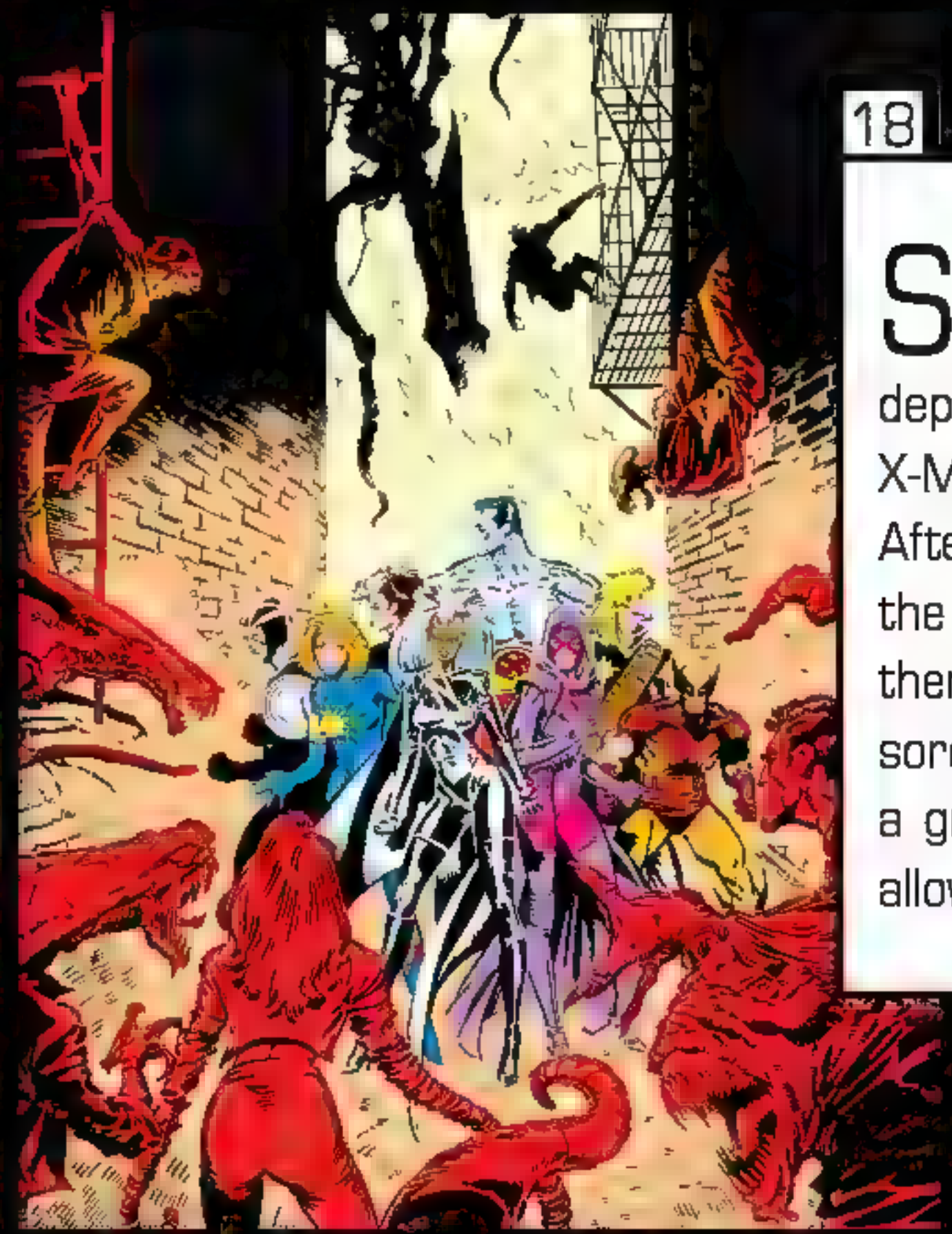
16

Taken in by Xavier, Rachel joined the X-Men, eventually becoming host to the Phoenix Force. As Phoenix, Rachel sought to kill a helpless Selene, forcing Wolverine to gravely wound her to uphold the X-Men's vow to kill only when necessary. Rachel fled the team, retreating to a different reality to recover.



17

Not long after, the mad geneticist Sinister sent his Marauders to eliminate countless Morlocks, believing them to be a distortion of his own genetic experiments. The X-Men intervened, suffering catastrophic losses when Colossus, Nightcrawler, and Shadowcat were brutally injured and forced to leave the team.



18

Storm and Wolverine were deeply shaken by their companions' departure, but vowed to continue the X-Men's mission alongside new recruits. After recovering, Colossus rejoined the team shortly before they sacrificed themselves to save Earth from a sorcerous threat. Though resurrected by a grateful, god-like benefactor, the team allowed the world to believe them dead.



19

Believing their family lost for good, Shadowcat and Nightcrawler struggled through their long recoveries, eventually reuniting and reconciling with a recovered Phoenix. Seeking to honor their fallen teammates, the trio helped form Excalibur, a team that also dedicated itself to the X-Men's mission of protecting humanity.



20

Eventually learning that the X-Men were alive, a relieved Shadowcat, Nightcrawler, and Phoenix remained with Excalibur. However, to save their time-lost teammate Captain Britain (Brian Braddock), Phoenix sacrificed herself to trade places with him.



21

Following his departure from the X-Men, Colossus eventually joined Shadowcat and Nightcrawler in Excalibur. When some of their teammates retired, the three finally admitted their long-ignored feelings and returned to their hearts' home, rejoining Storm and Wolverine in the X-Men.



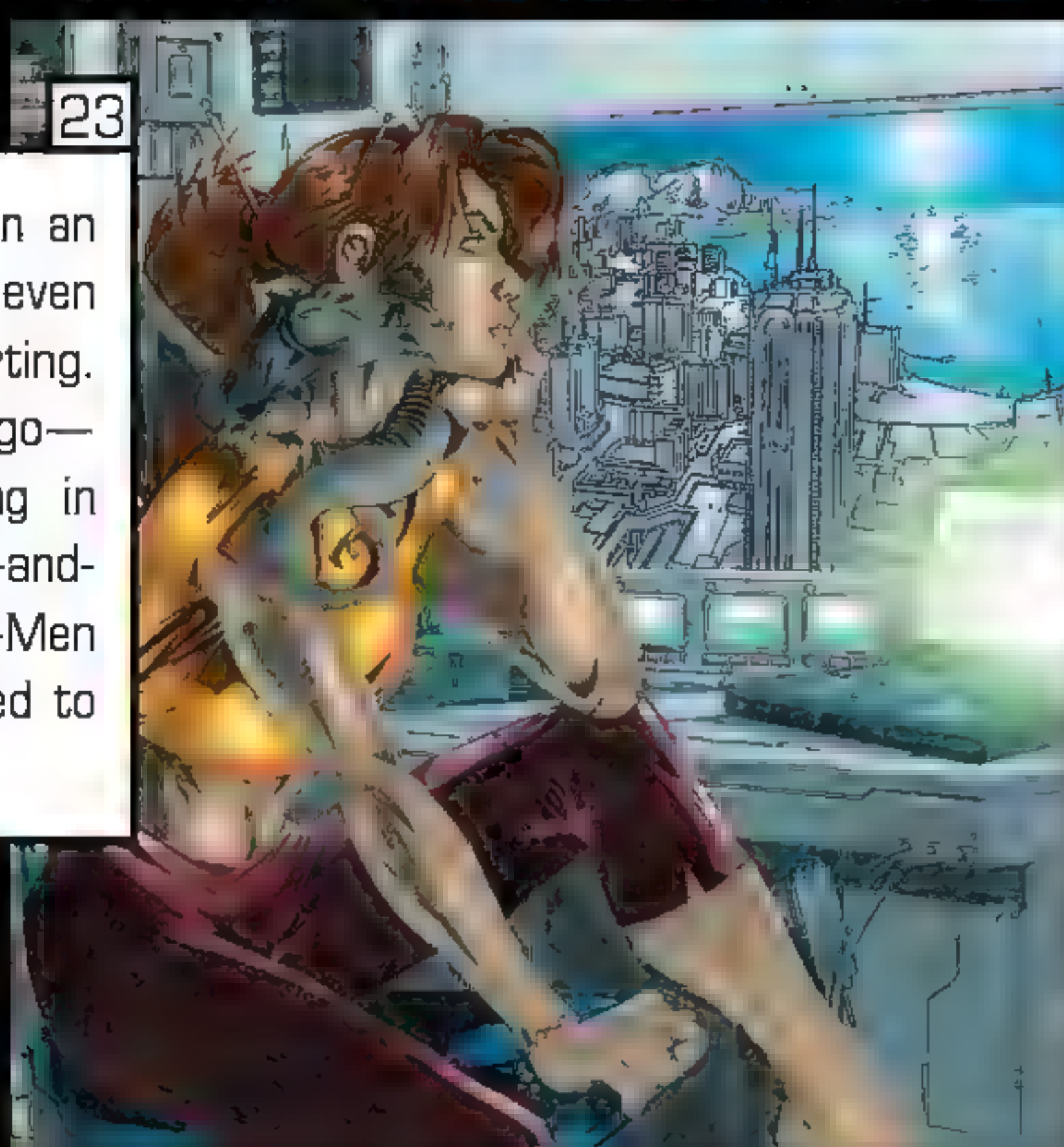
22

After learning the terrorist Mystique was his mother and serving with the team for an extended time, Nightcrawler departed to pursue studies toward becoming a priest, following a calling to further embrace his deeply held Catholic faith.



24

Long after losing Magik to the mutant-killing Legacy virus, Colossus learned the long-sought cure required a mutant to inject themselves with the serum and activate their powers, so the resulting power flare would disburse it into the atmosphere. Believing the cure to be worth more than himself, Colossus sacrificed his life. Kitty later spread Colossus's ashes in his native Russia.



23

Later, Shadowcat also left, doing so in an uncharacteristic manner by not even telling her teammates she was departing. Kitty returned to her hometown—Chicago—to pursue a higher education, indulging in challenges of the mind instead of life-and-death struggles. Eventually, she let the X-Men know she was okay, but that she wanted to be left alone.



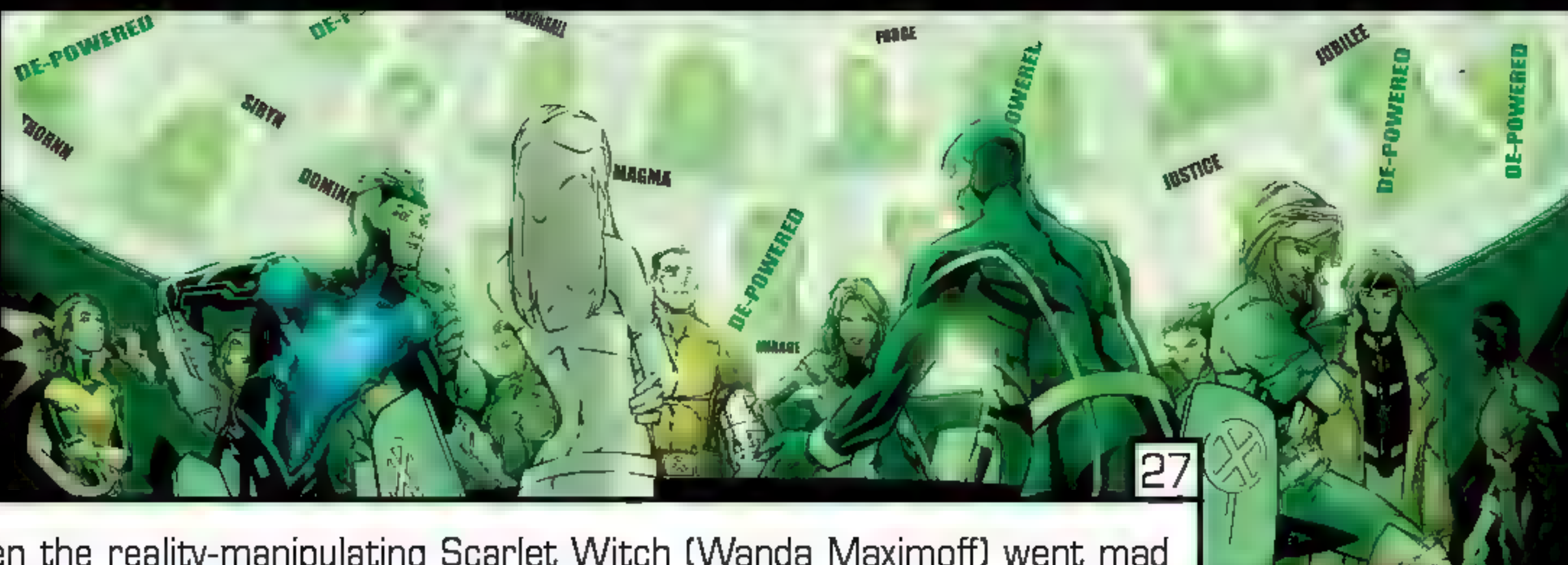
25

Rachel eventually returned to the present and rejoined the X-Men, though now disconnected from the Phoenix Force. Rachel learned that Jean Grey—this timeline's version of her mother—had been killed. To honor her, Rachel changed her last name to Grey and assumed Jean's Marvel Girl code name; she then joined a team with Storm, Wolverine, and the since-returned Nightcrawler.



26

Simultaneously, Cyclops—who had also returned—convinced Kitty to rejoin the X-Men, hoping her likable nature would help the team's public image. On a mission, Kitty was shocked to learn that, years before, Colossus's body had been stolen before cremation so he could be resurrected by extraterrestrials that needed a mutant guinea pig for tortuous experiments. Colossus rejoined the team after being rescued. It wasn't long before Kitty and Colossus were overwhelmed with their mutual feelings and fell in love once more, resuming the romance that had ended in their teenage years.



27

Mutantkind faced near-extinction when the reality-manipulating Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff) went mad and nearly purged the species of the X-gene, effectively making mutants an endangered species. The X-Men eventually relocated to an island off the coast of San Francisco, gathering the relatively few remaining mutants there. To protect them, Cyclops made brutal, drastic decisions that some felt bordered on villainy.



28

Storm found love at long last, marrying her childhood friend T'Challa, who had become the king of Wakanda and the Black Panther, a member of the Avengers—Earth's Mightiest Heroes. Following the wedding, Storm left the X-Men to serve as Wakanda's queen, only returning briefly as needed.



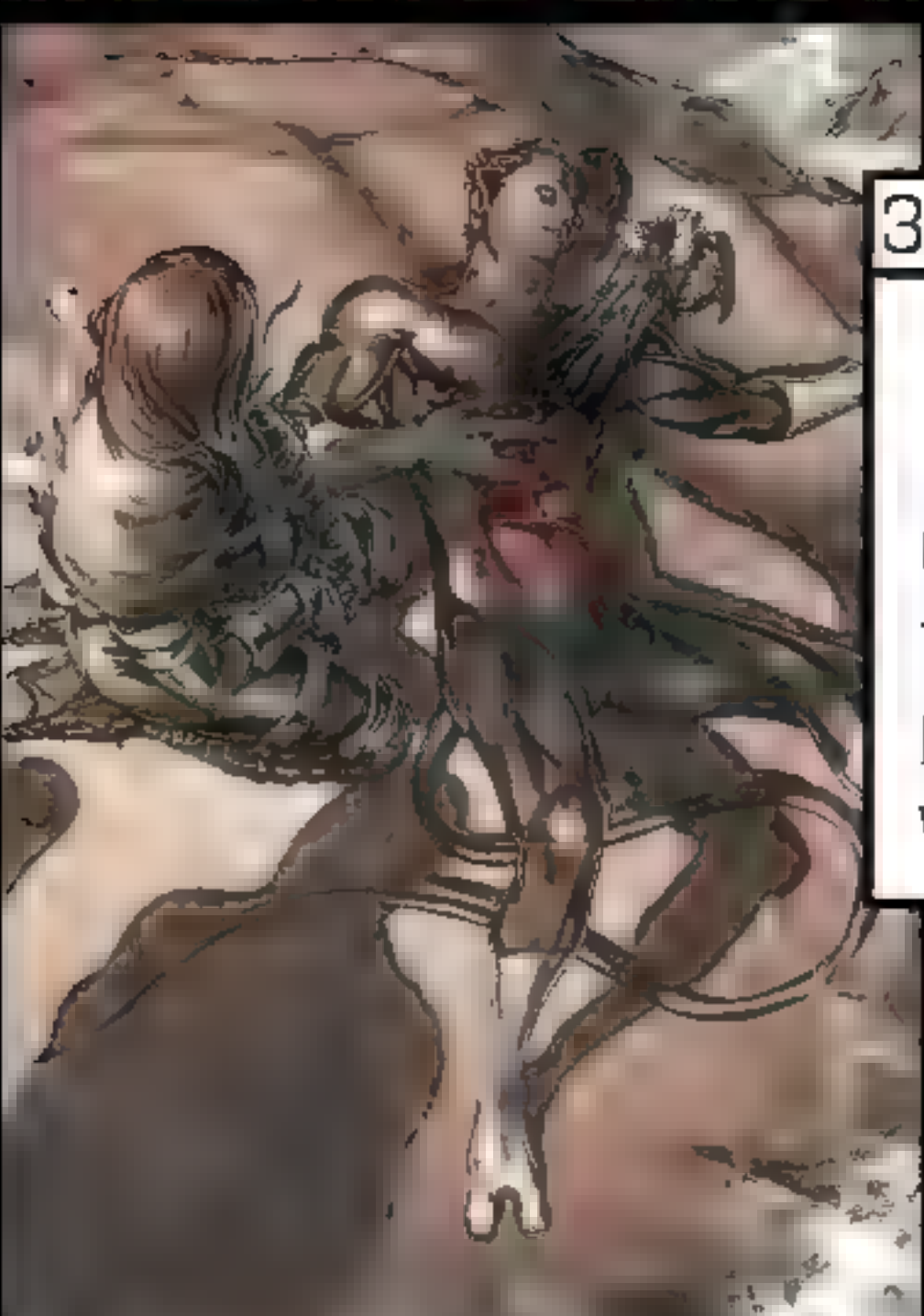
30

At Xavier's request, Marvel Girl joined a team of X-Men pursuing a deadly foe fleeing to outer space. Having reconnected with the Phoenix Force, Rachel proved instrumental during multiple interstellar wars. But when the Force inexplicably departed, Rachel was left confused, with only her baseline psionic abilities.



29

During a space mission to confront the extraterrestrials that had tortured Colossus, the X-Men were distraught to learn that the aliens intended to destroy Earth to prevent their feared prophecies of destruction by a mutant. Kitty bonded with their weapon, allowing it to pass harmlessly through Earth. The planet's greatest minds could not find a way separate her from the metal, so Kitty was believed lost as the unstoppable weapon sped on an endless, intangible universal journey.



32

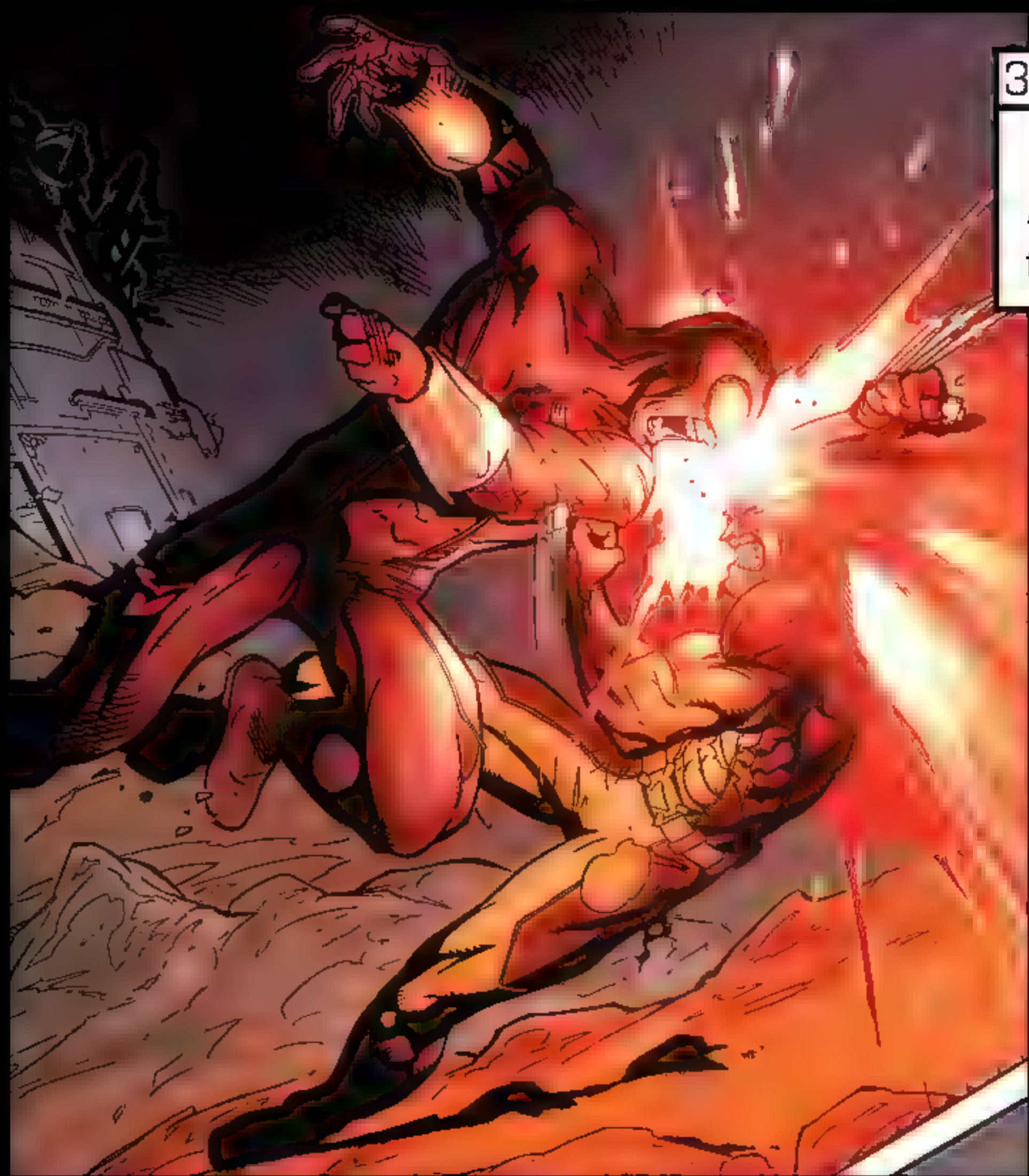
Immediately following Kitty's return, the X-Men fought a massive, bloody war against anti-mutant forces seeking mutantkind's extinction. During a battle, Nightcrawler teleported between a ward of the X-Men and a robotic foe to protect her. The girl was saved, but Nightcrawler was killed when he rematerialized with the foe's arm within his chest.

31

Seeking to prove his motivations were pure while working with the X-Men, the team's former archenemy Magneto (Max Eisenhardt) pushed his magnetic powers to their limit to locate the weapon containing Kitty. Though nearly dying in the process, Magneto separated her atoms from the metal.

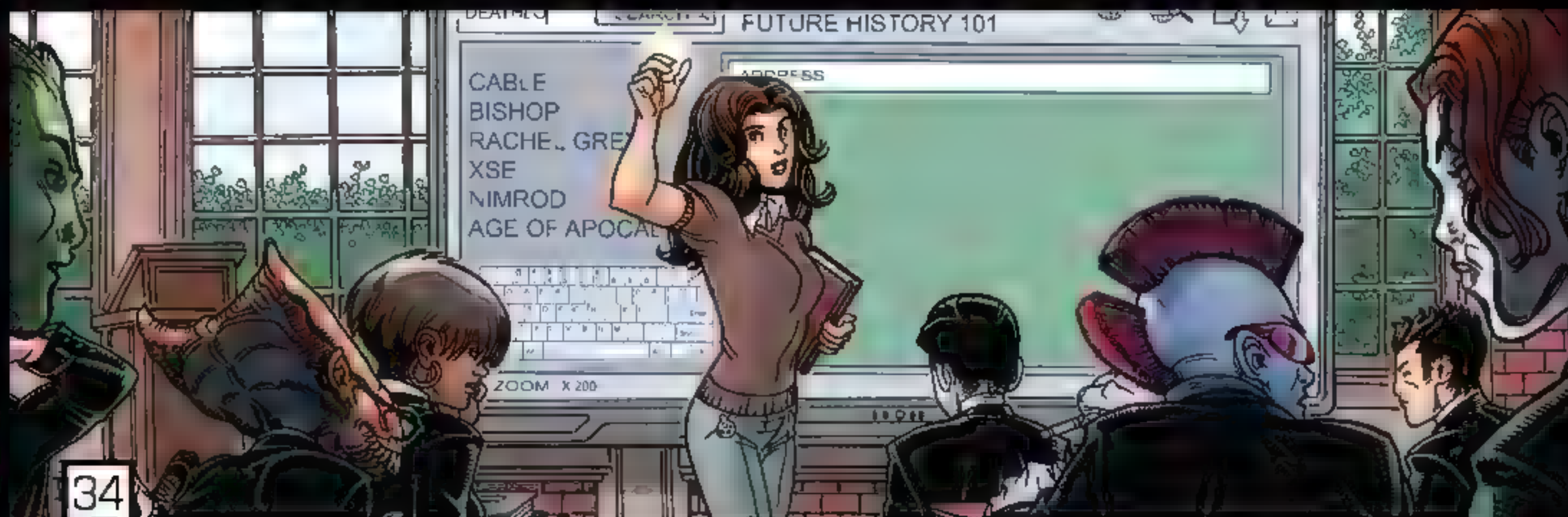
33

A fundamental disagreement between Cyclops and Wolverine—whether to train young mutants to safely control their powers, or to use their abilities for war—drove a wedge between the two men, creating a schism within the X-Men.



34

Kitty left with Wolverine to reopen the School for Higher Learning in New York, taking in dozens of teenage mutants. Despite their best intentions, the faculty of X-Men often were forced to defend the students from outside threats. Having returned to Earth, Rachel joined the faculty and rejoined the X-Men, teaching her students how to resist psychic attacks and mental manipulations.



35

Cyclops remained in San Francisco with the team's most powerful members, serving as a deterrent for mutantkind's enemies. Storm joined the team to help keep Cyclops' brutality in check. Colossus also stayed, believing he was unsafe around children since sacrificing himself to take the power of the Juggernaut to defeat an enemy.

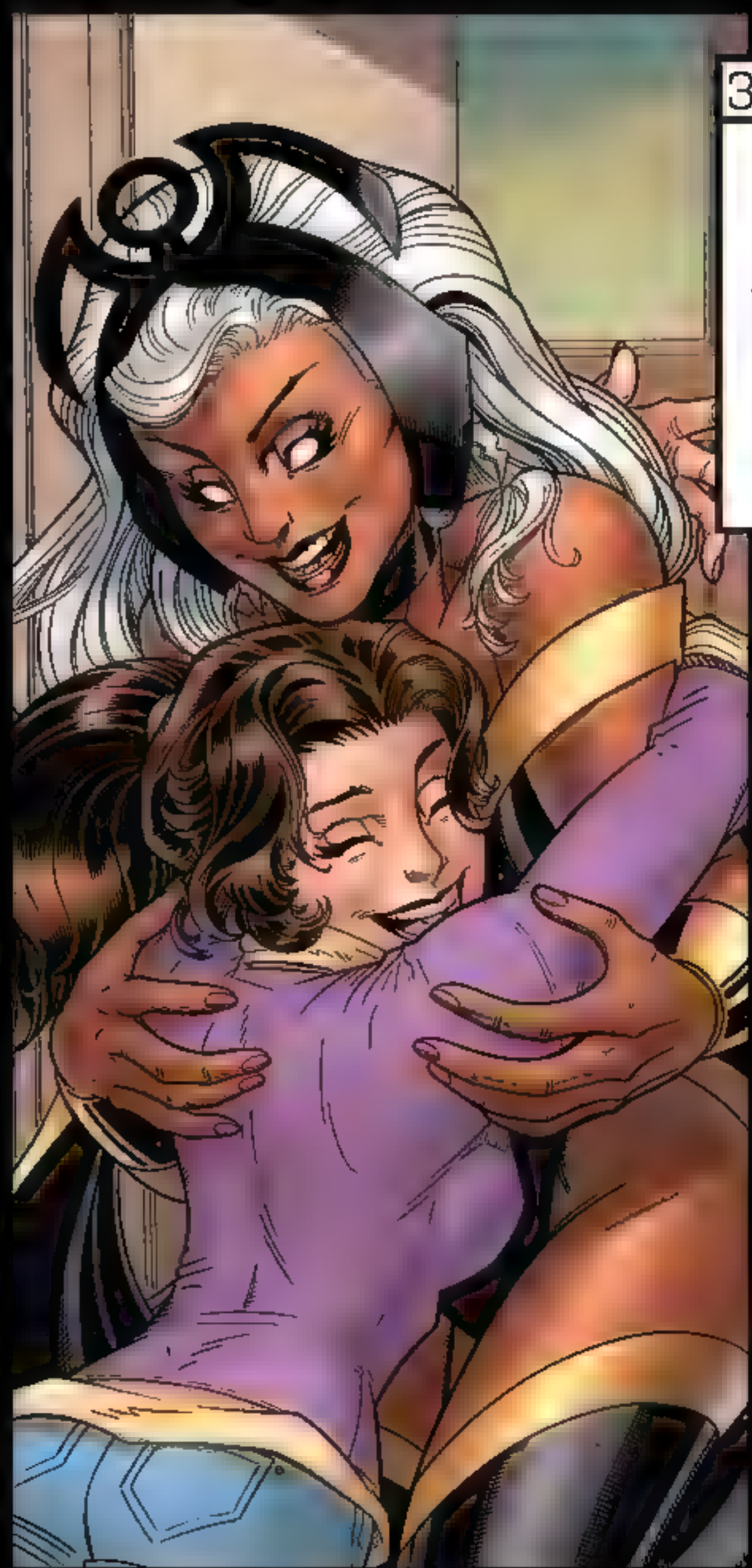
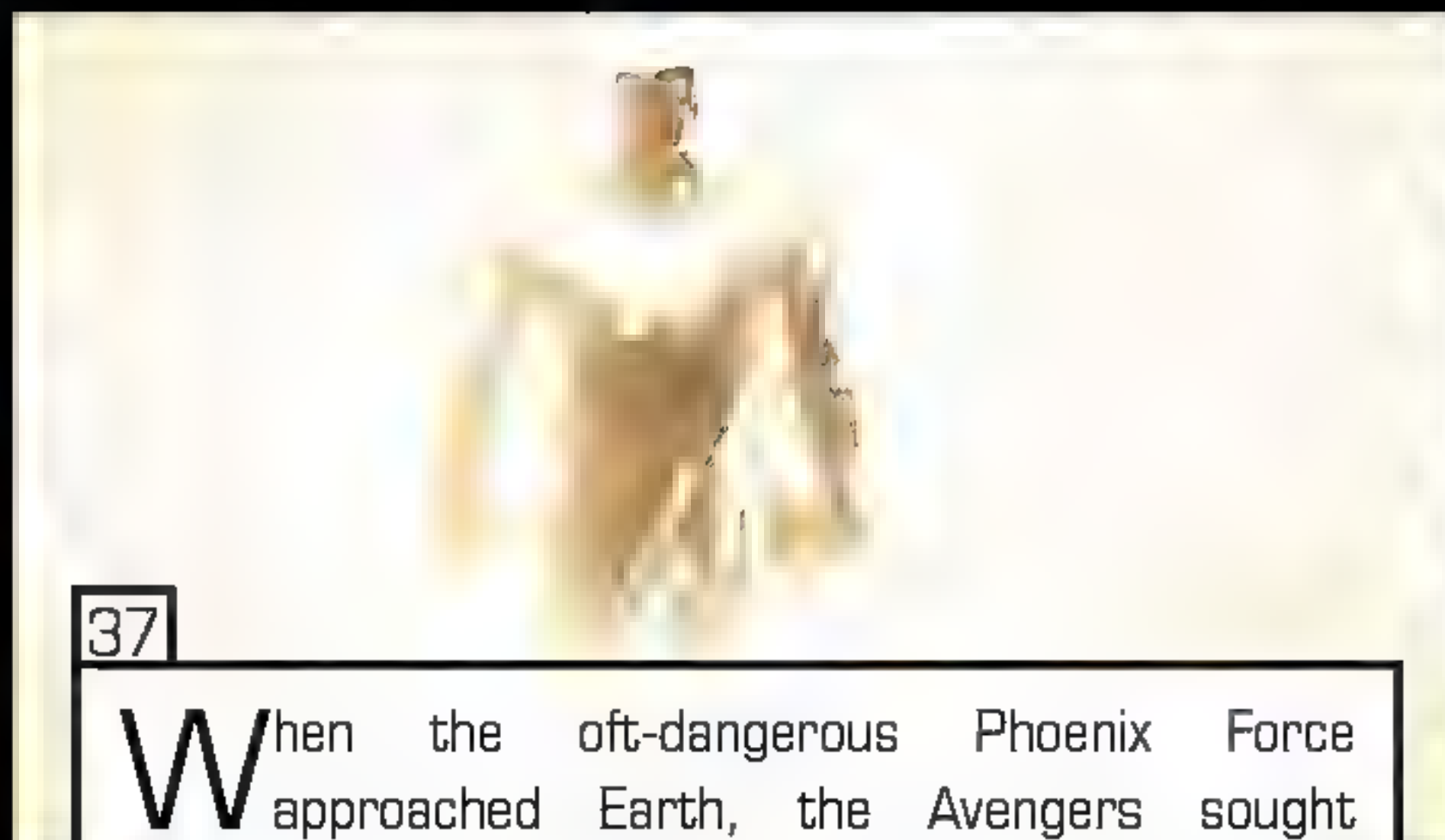


36

Before she departed for New York, Kitty and Colossus broke up once more, Colossus's latest sacrifice making Kitty realize she needed someone who was willing to live for their causes, not only willing to die for them.

37

When the oft-dangerous Phoenix Force approached Earth, the Avengers sought to repel it, while the X-Men hoped it could reignite mutantkind. Colossus unexpectedly came to host a portion of the Force's immense power, while a Phoenix Force-corrupted, power-mad Cyclops killed Xavier. Ultimately, the teams cooperated, using the Force to restart the mutant gene worldwide. Cyclops was imprisoned, while a distraught Colossus retired to Russia to resume farming.



38

The war also resulted in the dissolution of the marriage of Storm and the Black Panther. The people of Wakanda would not accept Storm as their queen after a Phoenix Force-empowered X-Man—Namor, king of Atlantis—devastated their country. Storm returned to the New York school to teach under Kitty's supervision.



39

Cyclops soon escaped and began leading an outlaw mutant rebellion, causing distraught fellow X-Man Beast (Henry McCoy) to use time-travel equipment to bring the original five X-Men to the present, hoping they could help stop the mutant genocide Beast feared Cyclops would provoke. Kitty became a mentor to the five, continuing the work Xavier had begun.

40

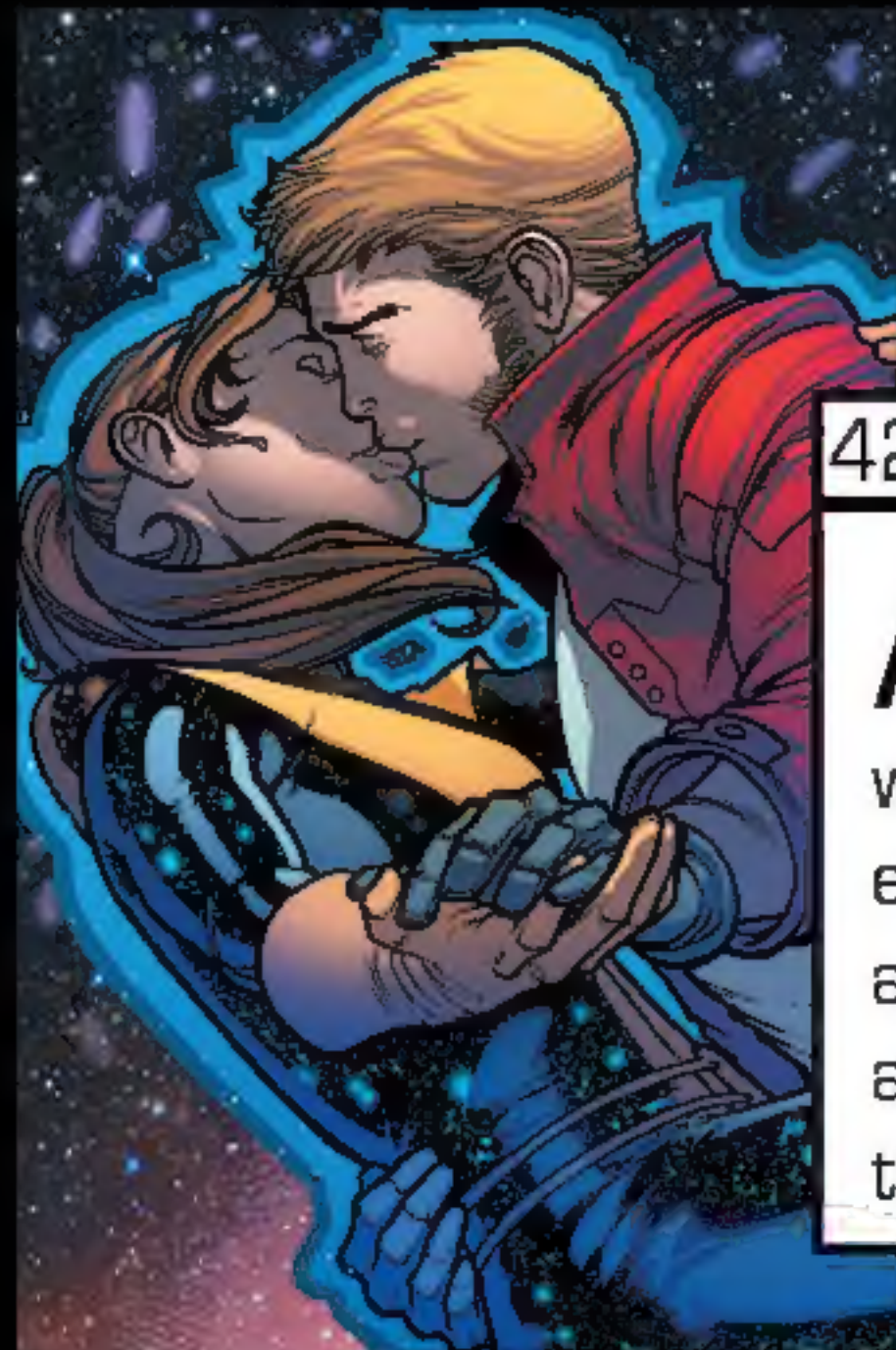
Learning of a demonic plot to steal souls from Heaven, Nightcrawler's spirit contacted the X-Men and helped them prevent the theft. However, Nightcrawler had to force the perpetrator out of Heaven personally. Happy to be reunited in life with his beloved teammates, Nightcrawler secretly agonized over the loss of his soul in his departure from Heaven.





41

When a rogue scientist hoped to re-create the process that bonded metal to Wolverine's skeleton, Wolverine opposed him. While stopping the procedure and saving the subjects, Wolverine's destruction of the machinery caused molten Adamantium to cover him from head to toe. Wolverine was killed when it hardened into an unbreakable second skin.



42

After meeting the Guardians of the Galaxy in space, Kitty kept in contact with their leader, Star-Lord (Peter Quill), eventually falling in love. When they met again, Star-Lord proposed to Kitty, who accepted. Kitty stayed in space to pursue the relationship.



43

When Black Bolt (Blackagar Boltagon)—king of the Inhumans, a superhuman race created by alien experimentation on prehistoric humans thousands of years ago—released the transformative Terrigen Mist into the atmosphere to awaken latent Inhumans, exposure caused illness, sterility, and death among mutants. Cyclops became a global terrorist while provoking conflict with the Inhumans, and the illness made mutants more hated and feared than ever. Storm relocated the race to Magik's Limbo with the help of Doctor Strange. From this X-Haven, Storm led missions to rescue mutant refugees, but her self-doubt grew in the face of constant dangers.



45

Seeking to bolster the X-Men's ranks, Storm sent a now-resurrected Magik to recruit the retired Colossus from his Russian farm, then to collect Nightcrawler, who had been driven mad when he was unable to stop the mass murder of mutants in Germany. The X-Men helped their friend regain his sanity.



44

Rachel quit the X-Men and returned to London to pursue a quiet life. She eventually joined Magneto in his brutal crusade to protect mutants so she could prevent him from killing, but soon resumed her civilian life.

In another alternate-future timeline, a coordinated super villain uprising wreaked havoc on Earth. When Wolverine slaughtered villains attacking the X-Men, he was unaware he was actually killing the X-Men while under the power of an illusion-casting criminal. A grief-stricken Logan retreated to a hermit's life, until the murder of his family years later forced him to execute his family's killers. A later collapse of realities stranded this Old Man Logan in the present, where he eventually and reluctantly agreed to join the X-Men.

46



47

After months in space, Kitty officially joined the Guardians, even adopting Star-Lord's identity for a time. Differences between Kitty and Peter eventually drove them apart; after acknowledging that they had rushed into their engagement, they ended the relationship. When the Guardians visited Earth, Kitty returned to teaching young mutants.

The Terrigen Mist eventually became unstable, threatening to kill all mutants. Cyclops had succumbed to Terrigen poisoning and his grieving lover, the telepathic Emma Frost, manipulated a violent conflict between the Inhumans and mutants. However, when finally learning of the fatal nature of the mist for mutants, the Inhumans worked with the X-Men to destroy the cloud, putting peace above their own race's needs. Subsequently, Storm returned mutantkind to Earth.

48



Writer: Mike O'Sullivan (with thanks to Chris McCarver)

Designer: Anthony Gambino

Featuring the artwork of Arthur Adams, Chris Bachalo, Richard Bennett, Nick Bradshaw, Andrea Broccardo, John Byrne, John Cassaday, Frank Cho, Mike Choi, Dave Cockrum, Olivier Coipel, Alan Davis, Terry Dodson, Javier Garrón, Randall Green, Stuart Immonen, Jack Kirby, Adam Kubert, Greg Land, Salvador Larroca, Ken Lashley, Ed McGuinness, Steve McNiven, Al Milgrom, Carlos Pacheco, Whilce Portacio, Humberto Ramos, John Romita Jr., Marc Silvestri, Paul Smith, Dustin Weaver, and Leinil Francis Yu



X-MEN

GOLD

MARC GUGGENHEIM WRITER

CHRIS ROBINSON ASSISTANT EDITOR

DANIEL KETCHUM EDITOR

MARK PANICCIA X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

THANK YOU.

SERIOUSLY, THANKS. IF YOU'RE READING THIS, IT MEANS YOU'VE BOUGHT THE FIRST ISSUE OF X-MEN GOLD. (RIGHT? RIGHT? IF YOU TORRENTED IT, YOU SHOULD FEEL APPROPRIATELY TERRIBLE.)

SO THANK YOU.

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE READING THIS BEFORE YOU READ THE STORY. (JUST ME? ALL RIGHT. YOU GUYS REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON.)

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THIS BOOK IS AS STRAIGHTFORWARD AS THE TITLE OF OUR FIRST ARC: "BACK TO THE BASICS." AFTER NO MORE MUTANTS AND UTOPIAS AND MESSIAH COMPLEXES AND AVXS AND E'S FOR EXTINCTION AND TERRIGEN MISTS, THE X-MEN ARE NO LONGER FACING SOME EXISTENTIAL THREAT, WHICH MEANS THEY'RE FREE TO CUT LOOSE AND GO BACK TO SAVING A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS THEM.

BASICALLY, WE'RE GOING BACK TO GO FORWARD.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

(GOOD QUESTION.)

IT MEANS THAT WE'RE GOING TO TELL STORIES THAT FEEL LIKE A THROWBACK TO THE HALCYON DAYS OF UNCANNY X-MEN WHILE STILL BEING FRESH AND NEW.

THIS IS A TALL ORDER. FORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, I'M AIDED AND ABETTED BY ARDIAN SYAF, JAY LEISTEN AND FRANK MARTIN, WHOSE BEAUTIFUL ART SUMMARIZES WHAT WE'RE DOING — OLD SCHOOL MEETS MODERN — BETTER THAN I EVER COULD. AND I'D BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T ALSO CALL OUT OUR EDITOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, DANIEL KETCHUM, WHOSE VISION FOR THIS BOOK HAS BEEN MY NORTH STAR. I'LL TAKE THE BLAME FOR ANY SHORTCOMINGS, BUT DANIEL DESERVES THE LION'S SHARE OF THE CREDIT FOR THE AWESOME THINGS WE'RE DOING.

AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, WE HAVE R.B. SILVA AND KEN LASHLEY WAITING IN THE WINGS TO HELP US SHIP THIS SERIES TO YOU TWICE — TWICE! — MONTHLY. IN SHORT, IT'S AN ARTISTIC MURDERERS' ROW.

AND IN KEEPING WITH DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM YESTERYEAR, WE'RE BRINGING BACK THE LETTERS PAGE! (EMAIL PAGE?) EVERY OTHER WEEK, IT'LL BE MY PLEASURE TO RESPOND TO YOUR MISSIVES ABOUT OUR LITTLE BOOK.

BUT WE STILL NEED A TITLE. SO HOW 'BOUT THIS: EMAIL IN WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND IF WE PICK YOURS, I'LL MAKE SURE DANIEL SENDS YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL. SOUND GOOD?
GOOD.

I THINK I'VE CHECKED OFF THE TYPICAL "FIRST-ISSUE LETTER COLUMN" BOXES, SO I'LL JUST THANK YOU AGAIN FOR READING. HOPE YOU'RE HAVING AS MUCH OF A BLAST AS WE ARE.

BEST,
MARC GUGGENHEIM
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 2017



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